

# NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle

Unitarian Universalist

A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XXXVI No. 8

April 2012



## Message from the Minister

In the newness of spring with its fresh beginnings we observe ancient stories of human struggle and liberation. Survival, escape, triumph, betrayal, suffering, resurrection, and community are recalled in the Passover Seder and the Holy Week services. These stories of faith and meaning from the traditions of Judaism and Christianity find resonance in our lives through our retelling and observing them.

A spring visit with my mother and sister to my son and daughter-in-law and granddaughter have enriched my sense of generation to generation transmission of life and meaning and love. We tell stories from times before memory, of infancy and childhood, as we marvel at a new unfolding life and personality. We recount the legends of our family life and place ourselves in its unfolding and changing narrative.

We do something similar in church, where stories from the past and the new events of the moment are plaited together, each enhancing the other. See you there!

----Diane



## Upcoming Worship Services

**Sunday, April 1, 10:00AM** "Peasant Procession, Imperial Procession"  
Rev. Diane Miller.

A Palm Sunday sermon and Membership Recognition. There will be an opportunity to join the church by signing the Membership Book during the service. Kathy MacDonald will speak about Joyful Generosity. On this First Sunday, children K-5 will begin in Union Hall.

**Thursday, April 5, 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday in the Sanctuary.** This annual commemoration of the Last Supper includes a Communion service in the Unitarian Universalist tradition using the FRS communion pewter. All are welcome, regardless of your theology. The focus is on remembrance and community. Marguerite will play, the choir will sing, and Diane will lead the service.

**Friday, April 6, Noon- 3 PM.** The Sanctuary will be open for meditation and personal reflection on Good Friday.

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM. Seder in Union Hall.** The Jewish observance of the Exodus story. Reservations required. See details on page 4.

**Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 AM Easter Sunrise Service at 291 River Road** (where it intersects with Skelton and Nowell Farme Roads) followed by potluck brunch hosted by Elizabeth and Maris Platais.

**Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM Easter Sunday Service** with festive music by The Choir and the Handbell Ensemble, a sermon, and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

**Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM.** "The Griswold Covenant"  
Rev. Diane Miller. A sermon on the words and impact of our covenant.

**Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 AM.** Bucky Rogers, student minister, preaching on Daoism on Earth Day.

**Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM.** Rev. Diane Miller preaching. Trumpeter Greg Gettel will provide special music.

## Message from the Director of Religious Education

This glorious early spring has put me in a seed planting mood. Coming to church should be a time for children to touch and do real things with others to learn about team work. Now that the Spring Pageant is over, any good weather Sundays will be held outside to take advantage of the learning opportunities presented by a church landscape that has sun, shade, wild areas, cultivated areas, wetlands, and a soon-to-be-realized vegetable garden. Some might get interested in planting something that will taste good, others might be caught up in the aspects of good landscape design, or the sheer breathtaking beauty of a flower viewed up close.

Palm Sunday and Easter present an opportunity to talk about the life of Jesus. Our theme for the year is Bible stories, so we will be talking of the Easter story, as well as doing some traditional egg decorating, and egg hunt and seeking activities.

A group will be gathering this month to discuss the curriculum for next year, with the theme of Unitarian Universalism. The intent is to have the fall be primarily RE classes taught by volunteer teachers and paid High School assistants, the winter term to include special K-5 or K-8 indoor projects such as preparing for a UU Pageant, and the spring term to involve nature studies where we hope to invite several guests to share their knowledge of bees, insects, birds, and wildlife.

I am always looking for ways to interact with the children. The more I can learn of the interests of each child in our program, the better I can design projects that will capture their interests. Is your daughter a writer? Then I will find opportunities for her writing to be shared, as it was with Holly West writing the wonderful Pageant blessing. Does your son like to draw? Then I will look for ways to showcase his talents, much like was done when Aaron Schaefer made those fabulous Manta Caye and Jamaican signs. Is your child fond of singing? Marguerite and I are cooperating on setting aside time for the children to learn some songs for some upcoming special Sundays. It is always enriching to all to find creative ways to involve the children in the Sunday services!

**Director of Religious Education:** Alison Saylor can be reached by phone at 978-369-5180 or by e-mail at [DRE@uucarlisle.org](mailto:DRE@uucarlisle.org)

## Message from the Student Minister

Ever wonder what it takes to become a minister? A master's degree is only part of the equation. March 23rd, I had an interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC), the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) "ordaining" body. I put that word in quotes because the UUA does not have the power to ordain ministers....only YOU do! In our form of church organization, called congregational polity, the power to ordain rests only with individual congregations, not with the denomination at large.

Theoretically, one could get ordained without going to divinity school or being affiliated with the UUA, but that is generally not how it happens these days. As a teaching congregation, First Religious Society has ordained more than its share of ministers, and I hope to add my name to that list this spring.

So, how does it happen? Well, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee grants (no prizes for guessing) ministerial fellowship, a kind of professional credential for UU ministers. One usually needs both fellowship and ordination to serve as a UU minister. While ordination requires a simple vote by a congregation, fellowship involves a very intensive interview process. One must preach for the MFC and then answer questions about a range of topics, including history, theology, ethics, pastoral care, social justice and spiritual development. The packet of information that I recently submitted to this board was 77 pages long, and included a psychological evaluation, career assessment report, chaplaincy evaluation, 4 essays, a personal statement, statements of competency in 16 areas, a reading list and internship evaluations (I send a big thank-you to my FRS committee for preparing these evaluations!).

As you can imagine, this is quite an ordeal for prospective ministers and often a source of stress. As I prepare to move into the next phase of my ministerial formation, Laura Scholten is getting ready to start her journey down this path. Good luck, Laura, the ministry will be lucky to have you!

----- Bucky Rogers

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## FRS Programs and Announcements

### **Behind the scenes:**

Thank you to **the Finance** Committee for assembling all the materials for the Pledge Drive; to **Mike Saylor** for assembling the mobile TV cart; to **Ellen Huber** for leading the group who folded and labeled the March newsletter; to **Carol Nathan** and Pastoral Concerns Committee members **Sally Hayen, Natalie Brown, Lillian DeBenedictis** and **Anne Ketchen** who worked with the children to make some lovely handmade cards to send to our congregation.

To **Bob Fox** and **Mike Saylor** for installing the new flat screen LCD HD television on the new mobile cart; to **Peter Fox** and **Gavin Saylor** for Visioning child care; to **Christine Lear** and **Fontaine Richardson** and all the facilitators who made the visioning workshops such a success; to **Michael Griffeth** for an inspiring sermon last month; to **Margaret Darling** for playing the piano, March 4 and to **Nina Benkley** for her solo; to **the choir** for their ongoing service each Sunday; to **Susan and Don Emmons** for installing paper cup dispensers in the four bathrooms; to **Fontaine Richardson** for replenishing the Keurig coffee container supply; to the **Finance Committee** for preparing this year's pledge mailing: **Mary Hult, Tim Hult, John James, Stewart Johnson, Michael Saylor, Joe Sheedy**; to **Tim and Mary Hult** for the donation of the electronic keyboard for the RE programs; to **Ginta Bistras** and **Margaret Darling** for the piano music on Sunday, March 18; to **Tom Rourk** for tuning the church pianos and the harpsichord; to **Chasidy Jaquith, Peter Fox** and **Gavin Saylor** for providing Nursery child care each Sunday, to **Christine Lear** and **Lauree Eckler** for laundering the church tablecloths; and to **Angelo DeBenedictis** for testing the water quality each month; to all who cooked and served at the Eliot Church supper in Lowell on March 30; to all who worked tirelessly on the Carol Carbon Blues Pageant.

### **Sad news:**

It is with sadness that we report the death of Richard (Dick) Hurley O'Keeffe. April 12 1932 - March 14, 2012. Our condolences to Dick's family and to his friend Tom Rourk, who introduced Dick to FRS.

On **April 1 at 1:30 pm** in his favorite pew (the back room) at the Colonial Inn, Dick's friends will see him off in style, complete with New Orleans jazz. All are invited.

### **Great News:**

Laura Fell Scholten was accepted to the 3-year Master of Divinity program at Harvard Divinity School beginning this fall. She received the HDS Ministry Fellowship, the highest distinction the school bestows on Master of Divinity students. Laura is looking forward to moving to Cambridge and starting classes in the fall. She would like to thank everyone at FRS who helped with the application process, especially Diane, Woody, and Bucky.

**Coffee Hour Goodies:** Here's the line-up for April:

April 1: Membership Committee

April 8: (Easter) Last names N – R

**Since there is usually a larger crowd on Easter, we would appreciate additional food contributions.**

April 15: Last names S – Z. This will have a special farewell coffee hour in honor of Marje and Dave

Stickler, who are moving from Carlisle to Maine at the end of the month. Come say goodbye and have a piece of cake in their honor.

April 22: Environmental Action Committee

April 29: Last names A–C.

Please bring finger foods, including fruit and savory items that are easy to eat while holding a beverage in the other hand. Come early enough to prepare your own goodies for the table. If you can help clean up after coffee hour, too, we would be most appreciative! Anne & Richard Ketchen, Co-chairs, Coffee Committee

### **Environmental Action Committee News:**

The Environmental Action Committee (EAC) has once again sponsored the Carlisle Winter Farmer's Market for monthly Saturday mornings in Union Hall. The continuing goal is to support local, sustainable food and crafts year round. The last indoor market of this church year will be **April 21**. The EAC will be selling coffee, tea and other fair trade items at the market. After that date the market moves to Kimball's parking lot for the summer and early fall.

**FRS will hold a Passover Seder Service with a potluck dinner on Saturday, April 7, at 6 pm in Union Hall.** The Seder service will be led by Chuck Claus, cantorial soloist with training at Hebrew College in Boston and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. The Seder will include the traditional elements but will be abbreviated. All ages welcome, though children are expected to stay in Union Hall with their families and no separate childcare will be provided downstairs. Some of the traditional foods will be prepared at the church, and the remainder will be a planned potluck and cooperative effort being organized by Eva Herndon and Diane Miller. Hold a place by contacting the church office or use the sign-up sheets during Coffee Hour.

### **Saying goodbye to the Sticklers**

On Sunday, April 15th, we will have a special farewell coffee hour in honor of Marj and Dave Stickler, who are moving from Carlisle to Maine at the end of the month. Come say goodbye and have a piece of cake in their honor.

### **Weeding Wednesdays now to April 4<sup>th</sup> in the Infinity Garden**

Weather permitting, Alison Saylor will be doing Spring cleaning chores, clearing debris, planting and weeding in the Infinity Garden from 10:00am to noon each Wednesday. There are already flowers in bloom, and each week will bring more surprises. Are you willing to become the caretaker of one of the garden areas within the Infinity Garden? No experience necessary.

### **Memorial Garden Update**

New plantings, raked smooth earth, and cleared debris make the Memorial Garden look good. Now we just have to hope the grass grows.

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## Community Events

**“Economic Assistance Resources for Carlisle Residents”** is a compilation listed on the home page of the Town website. You can also locate the page at [www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMa\\_housing/index](http://www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMa_housing/index)

**Project Bread's 44<sup>th</sup> Walk for Hunger will take place on Sunday, May 6. Please support your FRS walkers--Ann James and Ellen Huber.** Please talk to either of them if you would like to join the effort. For details, go to [www.projectbread.org/walk](http://www.projectbread.org/walk)

**The Timothy Wheeler House in Concord Center, a boarding home for well elders, has two vacancies.** Contact [info@timothywheelerhouse.com](mailto:info@timothywheelerhouse.com) or 978-369-3771

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## Pastoral Concerns

We serve as a means of outreach to people in our church who need our special support and friendship. We will arrange rides, visits, childcare, meals or anything else that lends a helping hand during short or long-term crises. If you are in need of this support, or know of someone who needs this support, please contact Sally Hayen at 978-369-7591.



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## We Are a Welcoming Congregation

The First Religious Society in Carlisle is an inclusive community bound together in the Unitarian Universalist tradition of friendship, free inquiry and service to humanity. We recognize our commonality as spiritual seekers, and welcome and celebrate the participation of all people, without regard to age, race, religious heritage, political opinion, gender identity, sexual or affectional orientation, socio-economic status, disability or ethnicity.

We are committed to continual learning and growth toward affirmation of the enriching diversity of humankind, and to working to create a more just, sustainable and loving world.



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## Communications



- *Neighbours & Fellow Creatures* is a monthly publication. To submit items for publication send to: Ann Quenin, Administrator, P.O. Box 817, Carlisle, MA 01741, 978-369-5180, [frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org)
- If you would like to be added to or removed from this mailing please email us at [frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org).
- The next newsletter deadline is January 23, 2012.
- To receive the weekly enewsletter send the church office a note at [frs@uucarlisle.org](mailto:frs@uucarlisle.org)

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## Parish Committee

Parish Committee Co-chair: Michael Dundorf 978-390-9505, [mdundorf@comcast.net](mailto:mdundorf@comcast.net)  
Parish Committee Co-chair: John Lyons 978-369-1216, [johnalyons@comcast.net](mailto:johnalyons@comcast.net)  
Parish Committee: Paul Morrison, Muggsie Rocco, John Lyons, Christine Lear, Eric Darling, Michael Dundorf, Mary Hult

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## Church Treasurers

Mary Hult 978-369-0448, [mphult@comcast.net](mailto:mphult@comcast.net)  
John James 978-369-1296, [jjames3@mac.com](mailto:jjames3@mac.com)

## Standing Committees

Activities Committee:	Janice Kissinger 978-369-8968;	<a href="mailto:janicekissinger@aol.com">janicekissinger@aol.com</a>
Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs:	Ann James 978-369-1296; Susan Emmons 978-369-7921	<a href="mailto:ajames3@comcast.net">ajames3@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:susanssemmons@comcast.net">susanssemmons@comcast.net</a>
Environmental Action Committee:	Dan Scholten 978-369-1209, Lisa Sama 978-692-6592,	<a href="mailto:dks@mitre.org">dks@mitre.org</a> <a href="mailto:lmsama@comcast.net">lmsama@comcast.net</a>
Finance Committee:	Joe Sheedy 978-256-5068,	<a href="mailto:jos.sheedy@verizon.net">jos.sheedy@verizon.net</a>
Music and Worship Committee:	Tom Rourk 978-369-5366,	<a href="mailto:tfrpiano@comcast.net">tfrpiano@comcast.net</a>
Membership Committee:	Sue Kirk 978-371-0176,	<a href="mailto:sukirk@aol.com">sukirk@aol.com</a>
Pastoral Concerns:	Sally Hayen 978-369-7591	<a href="mailto:Sally_Hayen@vmed.org">Sally_Hayen@vmed.org</a>
Religious Education Committee:	Susan Lohrer 978-369-1612,	<a href="mailto:sulohrer@comcast.net">sulohrer@comcast.net</a>
Social Action Committee Co-chairs:	Ellen Huber 978-369-6678, Max Barber 978-369-7943,	<a href="mailto:e2huber@verizon.net">e2huber@verizon.net</a> <a href="mailto:damabar@comcast.net">damabar@comcast.net</a>

For a complete calendar of meetings and activities here at The First Religious Society please go to the church calendar on our website:

<http://www.uucarlisle.org/calendar.html>

All are welcome to attend Parish Committee meetings, except in cases of executive sessions. FRS Committee meetings are open to any interested party. To address a committee on a specific issue please contact the committee chair.

## Hospitality Committees

Coffee Committee Co-chairs: Anne and Richard Ketchen

Greeter Committee: Eva Herndon, Nancy West, Karen Dunkers,  
Tom Dunkers

Flower Committee: Donna Carter, Alison Saylor, George Bishop

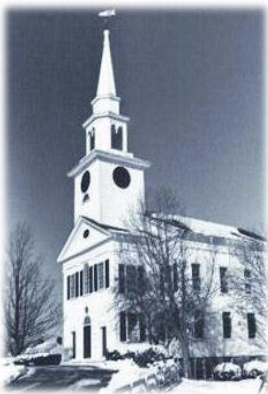
## The First Religious Society –April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p><b>9:00</b> Nursery  <b>10:00am</b>  Worship  Service  <b>3-6:15pm</b>  Morris Dancing  classes/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p>Staff <b>10:45-noon</b></p> <p><b>7:00pm</b>  EAC  downstairs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p><b>9:00am</b>  Carlisle  Resilience/  FRS upstairs  <b>7:00pm</b>  M&amp;W</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p><b>7pm</b> dance  rehearsal/UH</p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> Choir  practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p><b>3:00pm</b> COA tap  class UH</p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> Maundy  Thursday service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p> <p>Good Friday  <b>Noon to 3:00pm</b>  Sanctuary open</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p> <p><b>7:00-9:00am</b>  Men's breakfast/UH  <b>9:30-12:30</b> kids egg  hunt  <b>3:00-4:00pm</b>  handbell rehearsal  <b>6:00pm</b> Seder</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p><b>5:00AM</b> Sunrise  service</p> <p><b>9:00</b> Nursery  <b>10:00am</b>  Worship Service  <b>3-6:15pm</b>  Morris Dancing  classes/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p> <p>Staff <b>10:45-noon</b></p> <p><b>7:00-9:00pm</b>  GPL  event/UH  <b>7:00pm</b>  B&amp;G  comm.  downstairs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10</b></p> <p><b>9:00am</b>  Carlisle  Resilience/  FRS upstairs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>11</b></p> <p><b>7pm</b> Fishing  Club/UH</p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> Choir  practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12</b></p> <p><b>3:00pm</b> COA tap  class UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>13</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm:</b> potluck  and Contra  dance/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15</b></p> <p><b>9:00</b> Nursery  <b>10:00am</b>  Worship  <b>11:30am</b>  Finance Comm.  Budget  <b>3-6:15pm</b>  Morris Dancing  classes/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>16</b></p> <p><b>CARLISLE  PUBLIC  SCHOOL  VACATION  WEEK</b>  Staff <b>10:45-noon</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>17</b></p> <p><b>9:00am</b>  Carlisle  Resilience/  FRS upstairs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>18</b></p> <p><b>2:30-4:30</b> GPL  event/UH  <b>7pm</b> dance  rehearsal/UH</p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> Choir  practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>19</b></p> <p><b>11:30am</b> COA  luncheon/Union Hall</p> <p><b>3pm</b> COA tap class  UH</p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> KISS  (offsite)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>20</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>21</b></p> <p><b>9:00am-1:00pm</b>  Farmers Market/UH</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>22</b></p> <p><b>9:00</b> Nursery  <b>10:00am</b>  Worship service  <b>3-6:15pm</b>  Morris Dancing  classes/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>23</b></p> <p>Staff  <b>10:45-noon</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>24</b></p> <p><b>9:00am</b>  Carlisle  Resilience/  FRS upstairs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>25</b></p> <p><b>7pm</b> dance  rehearsal/UH  <b>7:30pm</b> Choir  practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>26</b></p> <p><b>3-4pm</b> COA tap  dance/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>27</b></p> <p><b>7-9pm</b>  Beekeepers/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>28</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b>  Carlisle School  Band &amp; Chorus  Fundraiser</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>29</b></p> <p><b>9:00</b>  Nursery  <b>10:00am</b>  Worship  <b>3--6:15pm</b>  Morris Dancing  classes/UH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>30</b></p> <p>Staff  <b>10:45-noon</b></p>					

The First Religious Society  
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## NEIGHBOURS & FELLOW CREATURES

The First Religious Society in Carlisle, Unitarian Universalist  
A Welcoming Congregation

WE ARE LOCATED AT 27 SCHOOL STREET IN CARLISLE CENTER OPPOSITE THE COMMON, JUST OFF ROUTE 225 AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE ONLY ROTARY IN TOWN. A CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND MEETING HOUSE WITH THE TOWN CLOCK IN THE STEEPLE. COME AS YOU ARE. "LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH, THE QUEST FOR TRUTH IS OUR SACRAMENT AND SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER."

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE APRIL 25, 2012**  
**SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ANN QUENIN IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**