



# The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2018

## September Services

Sunday Morning Services are at 10:00 a.m.

September 9

**Ingathering and Water Communion: A Celebration of Water – Rev. David L. Helfer**

As we gather together to begin a new congregational year, water is central in our minds.

From beach days to wildfires, water is integral to life.

How do we honor and protect this most life-giving of resources?

*For this multigenerational worship, please bring a small amount of water,  
from near or far, to contribute to our Water Communion.*

September 16

**And Who Shall We Be? Setting a Vision for Our Future – Rev. David L. Helfer**

Most by now have heard rumblings about a forthcoming capital campaign.

But it's really about imagining our future together. Today, we begin to consider  
what the next five, fifteen, fifty years might look like at UUCSC.

September 23

**Wake Now Our Vision; Or, What's Going on at the Unitarian Universalist  
Association, and Why Does it Matter? – Rev. David L. Helfer**

In the past few years, the UUA has undergone a lot of disruption and change.

Under the guidance of new leadership, new initiatives and approaches  
are emerging to help Unitarian Universalists find a sense of deeper purpose,  
a bolder faith, and a more sustained sense of commitment.

September 30

**Remembering Communal Joy – Rev. Martha Niebanck**

Author Barbara Ehrenreich asks a provocative question: "Why do we resist the experience  
of collective joy?" As we search for ways to feel hope while fires burn and cities are deluged,  
perhaps fully experiencing joy might "make a way when there is no way."

*Rev. Niebanck, Minister Emerita of First Parish in Brookline, Mass., currently practices  
as a certified Immunity to Change Coach. She and her husband Josef live in Roslindale.*



OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, 27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R.I.

# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Karen R. Ellsworth, Editor

Deadline: The 20th day of each month

Material should be submitted by e-mail to [kellsworth6@verizon.net](mailto:kellsworth6@verizon.net)

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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

[www.uusouthcountyri.org](http://www.uusouthcountyri.org)

OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER

27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R. I. 02879

(401) 783-4170 • [uucscri@yahoo.com](mailto:uucscri@yahoo.com)

Services and Children's Religious Education on Sundays at 10 a.m.  
*We welcome all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge,  
sexual orientation, age, or national origin.*

### *Staff*

REV. DAVID L. HELFER, MINISTER

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*Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday*

### *Board of Directors*

Linda Whyte Burrell, President (2017-2019) # Mary Fulton, Vice President (2018-2020)

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Mike Henry, Hospitality Coordinator • Dave Ruede, Stewardship

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*Karen R. Ellsworth*, Weekly E-News editor [kellsworth6@verizon.net](mailto:kellsworth6@verizon.net)

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Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

# *At the Water's Edge*

*Rev. David L. Helfer*



Dear ones,

You've been in my heart and on my mind, even in the midst of my easy summer rhythm.

A minister's time away is needed, and ever so helpful. As I get distance from the day-to-day of ministry, I can see how to minister to you differently, perhaps better. It's easier to see where I might work to empower you rather than do for you, how to shift my energies toward small group ministries and classes that provide support for more of you, and so on.

For me, it is a time of reflection, and a productive one.

One of the many things I realized this summer: I'm not entirely, any longer, the minister you hired. I've changed. Some might notice that my hair is a bit longer, that I've acquired an earring and a few tattoos. All true.

The real change, though, is on the inside. And I know I'm not alone here, that many of you have gone through a similar metamorphosis.

These times that we live in, they've shifted something core in me. As they have many of you.

I look at the world, and think: "Okay, this is it. If I'm not willing to put my body on the line now, why am I espousing the power of Unitarian Universalism?"

I say all this not because I've outgrown you, or because I want to change you. Nor am I questioning my call to UUCSC.

To the contrary: we have years of ministry together yet, I believe.

I do, however, honor the tension we found ourselves in last winter and spring, where the question arose of whether Sunday morning worship is a time of "comforting the afflicted or afflicting the comfortable." Is congregational life a respite from the world or a call to help heal it?

It might be both. Or maybe neither.

We walk through the doors of UUCSC both to find comfort and to be called to our best selves. As we do the hard work of Unitarian Universalism—of being aware and alive in this world— we'll encounter points of resistance in ourselves. That discomfort is an opportunity for, an invitation to, growth. It's an opportunity to look at what arises within, and work with that.

In this time of endless news cycles, seemingly constant communication, and change more rapid than can be emotionally and spiritually absorbed, congregational life can offer a third option to the realities of comfort and affliction: We can choose to be present to what is.

That is the core of what I, what we, will focus on this year.

With much love, and excitement to begin our third year of shared ministry,

Rev. David

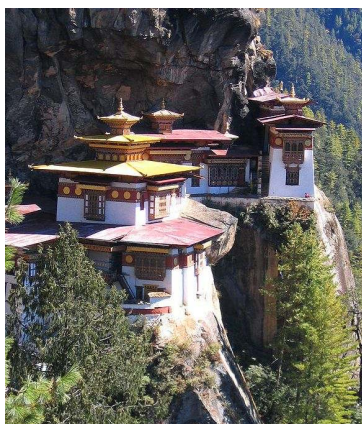
# A Note from the President

I had breakfast with a dear friend one morning. As beverages were delivered to our table, we caught up on the wonderfulness of our kids, and the fabulousness of our grandchildren. Our conversation moved from topic to topic. Our food arrived. We continued to talk and talk.

My friend had recently made a trip to countries in the Himalayas. She spoke of the various places she visited, and the many people she met. She visit lots of temples, including the Tiger's Nest at the Paro Taktsang, a Buddhist sacred site located on a cliffside in the upper Paro valley in Bhutan. That trip involved about five hours of walking on a narrow cliffside path. Yes, walking down was far more brutal than walking up.

She observed that in a

geographic area about the size of South County there are three hundred temples. Wherever she went the spirit of Buddhism permeated everything. She sensed an energy of contentment everywhere.



Our food consumed, we continued to sit for a second hour. Our conversation turned to current events, and life in the United States. We considered the quality of life, the degrees of contentment in people, in

the USA as compared to that in the Buddhist countries she had visited.

The journey inward, seeking peace and contentment rather than seeking outwardly in the material and tangible world, seemed to us to be the key.

We of the UUCSC community seem to me to know "the Way." Whether we practice Buddhism or know nothing about it, we embrace the spiritual path. We value the inner self, that worth and dignity of all life . . . so Buddhist.

Happily, after however we've spent our summer days, we return to our beloved community. We see and greet the sacred in each other. We join together as we seek, each in our own way, contentment in our journey together.

Namaste.

*Linda Whyte Burrell*

## The Worship Committee is looking for new faces

An important part of building community at UUCSC is to become involved in committee work. The Worship Committee's work is not "work." The meetings are not boring or solemn—members engage in friendly and sometimes intense discussions about everything involved with the way a service is conducted and how it is received.

Worship Committee members are not automatically expected to become Worship Associates and help conduct services. Everyone's participation in the Worship Committee is valuable. If you are a new member or friend of UUCSC, you are welcome to attend a meeting just to see what the committee does and decide whether you would be interested in joining.

The Worship Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month's meeting is September 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the UUCSC Library.

If you'd like more information, call the committee chair, Johnnie Rodriguez, at 789-0651 or e-mail her at [johnette.rodriguez@cox.net](mailto:johnette.rodriguez@cox.net).

# Music 'n' More at Lily Pads plans a great fall season

Music 'n' More at Lily Pads kicks off its season on Saturday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. with the Atwater-Donnelly Trio and Cathy Clasper-Torch.

Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly are multi-instrumentalists on mountain dulcimer, banjo, tin whistle, guitar, mandolin, harmonic, limber jacks and feet (Appalachian clogging). Highly steeped in traditional folk music from Appalachia to England and Ireland, Aubrey and Elwood also present original songs and poems. Cathy Clasper-Torch brings her violin, cello and Chinese erhu to the mix.

On October 27 at 7:00 p.m., veteran peace activist, political satirist and singer-songwriter Charlie King steps onto the Lily Pads stage for the first time.



Among many recognitions of his work are the 2014 Joe Hill Award for excellence in the field of labor culture and the 2017 Phil Ochs Award for his music and activism for social and political justice. His latest recording, "Life and Love, Tears and Laughter," is a mix of time-tested folk songs and new songs about the times we live in.

Charlie will also deliver a sermon on the history of non-violence in the U.S. at our Sunday service on October 28.

On November 17 at 7:00 p.m., Mixed Magic Theater's Exult Choir, led by Kimberly Morrison Pitts-Wiley, will present their special blend of gospel and popular songs from composers as diverse as Thomas Dorsey, Clara Ward, Curtis Mayfield, the Soweto Gospel Choir, Cindy Lauper, the Beach Boys and Chance the Rapper.

Tickets for all shows are \$15.

Please consider joining the Music 'n' More at Lily Pads Committee to help produce these amazing shows. You could take tickets, make refreshments, build the stage, put up lights, help with promotion, and much more. You could also pitch in for specific concerts, without being "on call" every month. Call 789-0651 for more information.

– Johnnie Rodriguez



## It's time to sign up for our Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair

On Saturday, December 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., we'll hold our third annual UUCSC Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair. Just like last year, it takes place on the weekend that Christmas events, including lighting of the Christmas tree in the middle of the rotary, take place in Peace Dale. The trolley will be running again, too.

Now is the time to sign up for a table as a paid vendor. We only have enough room for 20 tables, so please sign up early! Costs are the same as last year: \$40.00 per table for adult vendors and \$20.00 per table for youth vendors. Two vendors may share a table. You can sign up by using our on-line form (<https://goo.gl/VSk2Xb>) or call Betsy Dalton, vendor coordinator, at 529-8733.

We need lots of volunteers to put on a successful fair, and there are many different ways you can help, including working at one of the UUCSC tables, or moving tables and chairs. Sign up to volunteer on line (<https://goo.gl/CJwuKK>) or call Clare Sartori, volunteer coordinator, at 783-0662. – Betsy Dalton

### Regular office hours are back

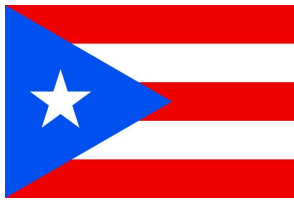
The church office is has returned to its regular schedule. It will be open Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rev. David L. Helfer's office hours this year will be Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Wednesday from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He will be available on Fridays if needed. His days off will be Tuesday and Saturday.

Rev. Helfer will not be in the office on Monday, September 10, Tuesday September 18 after noon, and Wednesday September 19.

## On September 16, learn more about the service trip to Puerto Rico

If you're planning to take part in our service trip to Puerto Rico in April, mark your calendar for Sunday, September 16. Steve Boisvert of Community Collaborations International will be here at 11:30 a.m., immediately after the service, to share information about the trip.



The trip, to help rebuild structures damage by Hurricane Maria, will be from April 13 through 20 and will cost \$885 per person. Scholarships may be available.

If you plan to take the trip, your application, including a \$25 non-refundable application fee, is due in the UUCSC office by October 1. Because Community Collaborations International requires that 30% of the trip must be paid for 90 days before departure, a payment of \$275 will be due by December 1.

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### Read Rev. Helfer's op-ed



In an op-ed piece in the August 30 edition of the Providence Journal, Rev. David L. Helfer characterizes the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh as “a dangerous threat to our core American and Rhode Island value of separation of church

and state.” Read the complete essay at <http://www.providencejournal.com/opinion>.

### Rally for Climate, Jobs and Justice

Thousands of rallies are planned throughout the world on Saturday, September 8 to demand urgent action to save our climate.

Here in Rhode Island, Climate Action RI has organized a “Rise for Climate, Jobs and Justice” rally at 6:00 p.m. at the Roger Williams National Memorial, 281 North Main Street in Providence. From there, participants will march to Waterfire (sponsored by National Grid) for a peaceful protest.

Members and friends of UUCSC who plan to attend will meet at church and carpool to the rally.

For more information, contact Lisa Petrie.

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### Share the Plate with Gaits of Harmony

Our Share the Plate recipient for September and October is a Hopkinton nonprofit called Gaits of Harmony (<http://www.gaitsofharmony.org/>) that helps people enrich their lives and cope with challenges through interaction with horses.

Half of our collection at our Sunday services on September 9 and October 7 will go to Gaits of Harmony. Elizabeth Capalbo, the founder of Gaits of Harmony, will describe her organization's work during our October 7 service.

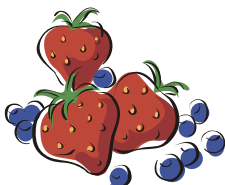
We raised \$341 for our Share the Plate recipient for July and August, Youth Pride RI.



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### Local Foods Banquet is September 21

Our 8th annual Local Foods Banquet will take place on Friday, September 21 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy a relaxed evening with local food, live music, and good company. After dinner, the Raging Grannies of Greater Westerly will lead a topical sing-along. Please bring a dish featuring local or sustainable foods. Announcements and literature about local social and environmental justice work are welcome.



The Local Foods Banquet, sponsored by the Green Task Force, is open to the public. Bring your family and friends! Contact Lisa Petrie with questions or to RSVP.



## Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

### RE Registration is open!

We're looking forward to a wonderful year!

Sign your kids up via our Google registration form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8DwOm8JLpjUi7mvsQAZLvxMxGmxjuKGcUw7RqtTcxraHZpA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8DwOm8JLpjUi7mvsQAZLvxMxGmxjuKGcUw7RqtTcxraHZpA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Link also available on the website.

All family programming is free of charge.

#### Important dates:

September 9: Join us for our all-ages Water Communion service!

September 16: RE begins! There will be a meeting for parents after Worship.

#### Thanks to all our summer service volunteers

Our summer season of services has come to a conclusion, and it is time for the Worship Committee to thank all the volunteers who made it all possible:

Worship Leaders: David Floyd, Gail Burchard, Barbara Pagh, Penny Hall, Guy Latour, Carolyn Hurdis, Dave Hurdis, Jean Bowen, Natalie Herbermann, Betsy Dalton, Mac Richardson, and Sandy Ketrow.

Worship Associates: Clare Sartori, Johnnie Rodriguez, Kathy Swink, Penny Hall, Nancy Rose, Susan Strakosch, Amber Kelley Collins and Betsy Dalton.

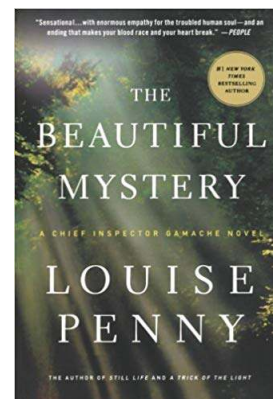
Musicians: David Floyd, violin and guitar; Gail Burchard, hammered dulcimer and piano; Bill Jones, violin and octave mandolin; Ava Evering Rowe, soprano; Nick and Ligia Smith, guitars; Mac Richardson, baritone and song leader; Ann Seemann, song leader; and Helene Gersuny, piano.

Thanks to Ann Seemann, who recruited the speakers, and also to guest musicians Marion Anderson and Sharon Albert, recorder players.

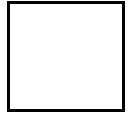
Book Club meets September 24  
The UUCSC Book Club meets once a month to talk about a book members have just read.

For their meeting on Monday, September 24, the group will read Louise Penny's *The Beautiful Mystery*, which is set in a monastery. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation.

Contact Linda Whyte Burrell for more information.



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY  
27 NORTH ROAD  
PEACE DALE, RI 02879



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*“We are not human because we think. We are human because we care. All true meaning is shared meaning.”*

– Forrest Church

Frank Forrester Church IV (September 23, 1948 - September 24, 2009) was senior minister at the U.U. Church of All Souls in New York City. He was born in Palo Alto, California, while his father, Sen. Frank Church, was attending Stanford Law School.