



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunday Rev. Amy Freedman

Amy writes... "After such a long hard winter, our spirits long for the renewal of spring! Join us for a worship service filled with joy and celebration.

As Unitarian Universalists, we honor Jesus as a great spiritual teacher. What did Jesus teach? What was his spiritual message? One thing about which most scholars agree is that Jesus taught using parables. Stories are a powerful tool because we can identify with the characters and apply the message to our own lives. The parables found in the Bible are also a kind of riddle that are surprising and require thought to discern their meaning. On this Easter Sunday, I will offer you my perspective on the message that lives on."

First Edition

Sermons

Sunday, March 8, "Shut up and Get in the Whale", Sam Teitel

Sam writes... "Many Unitarian Universalists know and celebrate our history of involvement with the Civil Rights Movement. And rightly so! But what has our involvement with the struggle for civil rights been since the 1960's and 70's? What lessons can we learn when we look at our involvement with the events in Selma in 1965 and compare what we did there to what we are doing as a faith community now?"

Sunday, March 15, "Troublemakers Part II", Rev. Stephen Kendrick

Stephen writes... "Two weeks ago, I preached on the subject of religious troublemakers, and why they bother us so, and why we so often fiercely react to them. The bottom line was, asking us to be more compassionate, justice-minded and generous makes us nervous, to say the least. Why, we would have to change! Part two takes the whole subject of holy troublemakers in a whole new direction--people who use religion not for the purposes of compassion, but violence. With CNN in 24 hour a day coverage of Isis, and Fox urging us on to a new Holy War, I thought it was well past time to look at any one, in any faith, who thinks waging war or killing in the name of God is somehow a good idea. On the surface, this looks like an easy sermon--it isn't. This is all much more complicated than it seems...See you on Sunday....I also wanted to note my personal enjoyment of the remarkable paintings in our lobby by friend of the congregation Carol O'Neil. There will be a short artist's reception this Sunday following today's service."

Sunday, March 22, "Living with Superpowers", Rev. Amy Freedman

Amy writes... "This winter, our children have been exploring the theme, *"Every Day Super Heroes- Putting Our Values into Action!"* WOW Kids (WOW stands for World of Wonder) have been learning about their own powers to overcome obstacles, to stand up for good, and to make a difference in the world. This is not just "kid's stuff"! Superheroes have an enduring appeal in our culture. The entertainment industry has created a whole pantheon of characters that can swoop in to tackle problems that are too big for us to handle. It is satisfying to watch or read stories where the battle between good and evil is clear. In a world that is morally complicated, how do we put our values into action? My liberal religious faith includes a belief in the power of the individual and communities to create positive change. Instead of waiting to be saved or rescued, it is essential that our religion inspire us to take action."

Sunday, March 29, "This Generous Life", Rev. Stephen Kendrick

Stephen writes... "Many years ago, a mentor of mine said, 'Every minister has only five sermons--your job is just to mix them up and add new elements along the way.' He paused. 'Actually, make that three.' I confess one of my three is the topic of generosity. Not that I am myself a paragon, or exemplar, of living generously--one of reasons I preach on this is to continually remind myself to grow in this area of life. Religion is full of topics to talk about--but very few to actually live out on a daily basis. Being a generous, expansive, loving person is one of them--this is something you either live or don't; and sure enough, is something people see in you or don't. This is important. What we believe is very important--how we in fact act is more important! You might think that this sermon is being preached because of the Annual Fund drive--actually, it's the other way around. The Canvass is a happy reminder that it is time for me to preach on what is really important. See you Sunday!"

The Learning Community Presents: "The Conversation Project" Sunday, March 8, 12:30 PM

How we die is part of our legacy to our loved ones and our communities. Most Americans express the hope that as they near the end of their lives they will not be a burden for their families and friends. Yet, if we avoid having values-centered conversations about our unique hopes and wishes for care through the end of life, we may be leaving family members in the dark. This omission may result in strife at the bedside and cause lasting damage in the relationships between the people we love the most. At The Conversation Project, our goal is to have everyone's wishes for care through the end of life expressed and respected. This workshop, led by the Rev. Rosemary Lloyd (after participating in the Sunday service), will introduce participants to The Starter Kit. Through guided reflection and small group sharing, the Starter Kit will support and motivate you to have a values-based, relationship-building conversation about an experience that touches us all. All are welcome!



Call for Ringers and Singers

Ringers wanted!

Help us form a handbell choir for Easter Sunday, April 5. Rehearsals will take place from 10:15-10:45 in the chapel on March 15, 22, 29, and April 5. No experience necessary, but please sign up by contacting Paul Cienniwa, pcienniwa@gmail.com

Singers wanted!

Sunday, April 12, is a Music Sunday, featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Rehearsals are on various Sundays during March with a mandatory 9-noon rehearsal on Saturday, April 11. For more information, contact Paul Cienniwa, pcienniwa@gmail.com

Passover Seder for the Whole Family

Thursday, April 2, 6:00 PM

Come one and all! A Passover Seder is both a service and a meal. Our First Church gathering will include upbeat music, a retelling of the Passover story, and a potluck dinner. Whether you have a Jewish background or never attended a Seder before, you are welcome! Sign-up today in in the Narthex or contact Rev. Amy Freedman, amy@firstchurchboston.org