



FOLLEN NEWSLETTER

Follen Community Church Unitarian Universalist
Lexington, Massachusetts



February 12, 2012

www.follen.org

Janet Parsons, Editor

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012

**10:00 AM: FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE,
SANCTUARY**

10:30 AM: WORSHIP SERVICE, SANCTUARY

"The Story of This Church"

Led by the Transition Team and Reverend Cricket Potter and Reverend Tricia Brennan, Interim Co-Ministers

Religious Education classes will meet
Nursery care will be provided

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2012

10:30 AM: WORSHIP SERVICE, SANCTUARY

Led by the Reverend Tricia Brennan

Religious Education classes will meet
Nursery care will be provided

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012

**10:00 AM: FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE,
SANCTUARY**

10:30 AM: WORSHIP SERVICE, SANCTUARY

Led by the Reverend Cricket Potter

Religious Education classes will meet
Nursery care will be provided

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2012

**10:30 AM: MULTIGENERATIONAL WORSHIP
SERVICE, SANCTUARY**

Religious Education classes will not meet
Nursery care will be provided

Important Religious Education Dates:

February and March

Sunday, February 12 – Regular RE
Classes Meet

Family Worship at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

***Sunday, February 19** – Special RE Pro-
gram

NO FAMILY WORSHIP TODAY

All children and youth meet in the Waldorf
School Auditorium for a special program of
Yoga and a Buddhist tale with visiting artist:
Tara Carey Jones

Sunday, February 26 – Regular RE
Classes Meet

Family Worship at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

Sunday, March 4 – Multigenerational Wor-
ship

NO FAMILY WORSHIP TODAY

***Sunday, March 11**

NO FAMILY WORSHIP TODAY

All children and youth begin in worship

Children in Grades 4 and below will be "sung
out" to RE classes.

Youth in Grades 5 and above are invited to
remain in worship with their families. Final
Sunday of winter teaching term

***Sunday, March 18** – FUUY Led Worship
Service

NO FAMILY WORSHIP TODAY

Please plan to join us for this annual ex-
traordinary worship service, planned and led
by the Follen youth.

Children and youth in Grades 3 and above
are encouraged to attend this service with
their families. Children in Grades 2 and be-
low will meet with their RE classes.

Sunday, March 25 – Regular RE Classes
Meet

Family Worship at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary

In the Interim

Reverend Tricia Brennan
Reverend Cricket Potter

The very nature of interim ministry is time-limited. Knowing that we have these two years to focus on who this church has been, is, and will hope to become gives purpose and clarity to our work together. Cricket and I look forward to diving into the interim task of claiming and honoring the past with you this coming Sunday. With the Transition Team, we will worship in the theme of "What is the Story of This Church?" and follow the worship service with a fun and informative participatory exercise to engage this topic. More on this can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, courtesy of the Transition Team.

Concurrent with our interim ministry work is the congregation's search for a new settled minister. The process had a formal start on Sunday January 29th when Laura Graham, the Mass Bay District's Ministerial Settlement Rep, joined us for worship and afternoon info sessions. Appreciation goes to the many people who stayed on through the afternoon to learn about the process and ask questions. Cricket and I felt this was a good beginning to this very important journey. For those unable to attend, you can learn more about the UUA's suggested ministerial search process by going to the Settlement Handbook page on the UUA website http://www.uua.org/documents/mpl/transitions/settlement_handbook.pdf. And of course you can seek us out for questions, as well as your Program Council and Parish Board leaders.

Trust is an inherent aspect of this process. At the February Program Council meeting, the council decides how the Search Committee will be selected. Though there now exists best practices on forming Search Committees, each congregation, in large measure, determines its own process. Once the process is established, it will take some time to compile the committee, as it should- this is the single most important decision a congregation makes. You'll want the Search Committee members to know what they are committing to, and you'll want all members to feel the selection process has been fair and thoughtful. A sense of trust in the process and the people is crucial to success.

As Laura Graham mentioned, there is not likely to be a shortage of good candidates for the Search Committee. You are fortunate that way. Cricket

and I have both served in churches that felt the leadership shortage during a transition time. I suspect you will have an excellent pool of members willing to serve.

Trust in the people and the process is not a blind trust. It does not mean that one doesn't speak up if something seems awry. In fact, trust is built when people do so, thoughtfully and in an above board manner.

At the same time, those elected to the Search Committee will need your support and trust. Unlike virtually all other committees and task forces, this one does not have open meetings. It will work independently and much of its work is confidential. In a very real way, it needs to feel empowered by the congregation to set off on its match-making enterprise, knowing it is respected and trusted.

I think it's going to be a fruitful journey~

Tricia

Meet with the Ministers Sunday, February 26, 12:00-1:00pm Marshman Center

Are you new to Follen? Would you like an opportunity to learn more about the Follen community in an informal gathering? Come and meet with one of our interim co-ministers for an hour of informal question and answer and conversation. Feel free to drop in for all or part of the hour. Children and families are welcome. Light lunch refreshments will be provided.

To help us plan, please RSVP to our Membership Coordinator, Harriet Peterson, at membership@follen.org by Thursday, Feb. 23.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE NETWORK

The VSN was started more than 25 years ago at Follen to help provide a supportive network within the congregation, by providing assistance for unforeseen circumstances, such as meals, rides, etc. If you need help during **Febuary**, call Carolyn Crowell through the church office.

RE-flections by Debra Zagaeski



This week I was helping my daughter to create Valentine cards to share with her friends. Creating Valentine cards has become a February ritual in our home, as it is in many homes at this time of year. I was sitting at the table in a glue and glitter haze thinking about the many valentines that have been created throughout the years and the many individuals that have received them. I was remembering the childhood ritual in which children are encouraged to create a construction paper mailbox in which to receive a card from each of their classmates and friends, and in turn they create a card for each one of them. What a wonderful way to acknowledge one another! And, I might add, who does not need a little acknowledgement every now and then, especially in the form of a lovely little note?

I think that it would be wonderful if we all created little cardboard mailboxes and mailed valentines to one another. Valentines of gratitude, valentines that hold and connect us to one another and serve to remind us that we all belong here together in this loving community each and every day. Happy Valentine's Day to you!

Namaste,
Debra



Beginning Again with Soul Collage: Saturday, February 18th

Now we have arrived in the deep mid-winter and now is a perfect time to nurture your spirit.

Come join in a collage workshop this winter and spring and allow yourself the opportunity to discover aspects of your own inner wisdom and spirit.

SoulCollage® is both a "no fault" art and spiritual practice. We will learn more about this intuitive process and enjoy the satisfaction that comes from using collected images as tools for exploring self. Over time, you will create a deck of SoulCollage® cards and use these cards in "readings" that may help to facilitate introspection and self-discovery.

Next Workshop: Saturday, February 18th
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Anne Smith Room.

All materials are provided. No previous experience needed.

Wish List!

Wishing for magazines with good images from which to gather images for the Soul Collage Workshop.

Please leave used magazines in or outside of the door of Debra's office.

Magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Photography*, *Nature*, and others with spiritual content are especially desirable.

Moral Values and the Liberal-Conservative Spectrum

A screening and dialogue
Monday, March 26, 2012, 7:30 pm
The Marshman Center

This program will begin with a screening of a 20-minute "TED talk" in which psychologist Jonathan Haidt tries to tease apart some core moral values and view "liberals" and "conservatives" through the lens of those values. Whether or not you agree with his theories, you'll probably find the talk to be a good stimulus to dialogue! If you want to view the talk ahead of time, go to: http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_on_the_moral_mind.html (No need to watch it ahead of time.) Questions: Contact Maggie Herzig.

Music Notes



SENIOR CHOIR NOTES

Rehearsals:

Sunday February 12th at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday February 14th at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday February 19th at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday February 21st at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday February 26th at 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday February 28th at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday March 4th - no rehearsal, as we will not be singing at that service. Please be punctual - and please try to attend all rehearsals!!

We are already starting to work towards the Music Service on Palm Sunday (April 1st)...

Youth and Junior Choir Notes

Rehearsals:

Youth Choir every Monday 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Junior Choir every Monday 5:15-6:00 p.m. in the Anne Smith Room

We will follow the Lexington Public Schools calendar throughout the year, so there will be no rehearsals when school is out (this applies to snow days as well as holidays)!

The next service at which both choirs will sing: **Sunday, March 4th** at 10:30 a.m. (rehearsal that morning for the Youth Choir at 9:00 and for the Junior Choir at 9:45). And after that: **April 8th** (Easter Sunday, when the Junior Choir will sing at the 9:30 service and the Youth Choir at the 11:30 service), and **May 6th**.

Operetta Update



Monday February 6th was a wonderful and delightful evening!! The operetta auditions were held in the Sanctuary, and, as always, there was much too much talent for everyone to get roles good enough for them... It was especially fabulous to see and hear how many talented 8th and 9th graders we have. The future of the operetta at Follen is assured!!

Here are the cast lists! Some tweaking may still need to be done - but Holly and I know it's going to be two fabulous shows!!

Patience: Abby Cali, Anna Parsons
Lady Jane: Margaret McCarthy, Maria Cali
Bunthorne: Julia Weinberg, Liam Hefferman
Grosvenor: Abby Heingartner, Noah Harrington
Lady Angela: Tory Brackett, Frances Snellings
Saphir: Alice Lee, Abby Mulligan
Ella: Karina Lenrow, Michele Hellinger
Ruby: Katherine Courtemanche, Rachel Lloyd
Colonel: Jesse Puka-Beals, Dennis Bromley
Duke: Hannah Redmon, Sophie Morgan
Major: Isaiah Johnson, Alex Lenrow
Bunthorne's Solicitor: Isabelle Troutman (both nights)

Love to you all
Thomas

The Master Singers of Lexington

Adam Grossman, Music Director
presents Pops! Art of the State
Saturday, March 3, 8:00 P.M.,
First Parish Church, Lexington

Come enjoy the music of Bernstein, Stephen Foster, Gershwin, Randy Newman, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and Kurt Weill, among others. For more information: www.themastersingers.org

Carbon Nation:

Good News on Clean Energy

On Monday, February 27 at 7:00 pm at Cary Library come see a film about enterprising individuals — from a wind farmer to a solar-panel retrofitter — who are devising business-minded ways to avert the looming climate crisis and about everyday pioneers in low-carbon living. For more information go to lexgwac.org

A Sunday Worship Tradition: Joys, Sorrows and Concerns

“Love is the Spirit of This Church”

The Worship and Music Action Team (WMAT) has been reflecting deeply on an issue brought to them about the Follen Church tradition of sharing our Joys, Sorrows and Concerns. Generally, “Joys and Sorrows” are life passages and events of a personal nature shared by parishioners during Sunday worship. “Concerns” may vary, but are often public, political, or community events that stir the speaker to speak or take action in the public sphere.

Over time, our Lay Ministers heard a number of comments from Follenites who felt hurt and alienated by strongly worded “Concerns” that were political in nature and made inaccurate assumptions about all who call Follen their spiritual home.

Specifically, these assumptions were that our Follen Community is entirely “liberal,” and primarily supports “liberal causes” and political stances. In fact, this does not describe this congregation. We are as varied in our political persuasions and politics as we are in our spirituality. Nevertheless there are people in this spiritual community who feel outnumbered, if not silenced in their views.

WMAT discussed this issue over several months with the Social Justice Action Team (SJAT), the Lay Ministers, the Interim Co-Ministers and concerned individuals. We now offer the following guidelines for any “Concerns” that are expressed during the period of “Joys, Sorrows, and Concerns”:

- That when an individual presents a “Concern” he or she may speak his/her truth, but it must be spoken in love and with an awareness that others may feel differently.
- There is no “other” in our spiritual community. We gather in the spirit of welcoming and inclusiveness to support each other’s human and spiritual endeavors.
- Going forward, we are offering another option for sharing and addressing a concern. We have named this option “Urgent Reflection.” After briefly naming the Concern during worship, the speaker with an urgent concern can invite others to join in a self-organized discussion after church. Either a member of WMAT, the Lay Ministers or SJAT will assist in finding an available space.

May we all be respectful of the diverse experiences and perspectives we bring to our gathering as a community, and may we be gentle with one another as we share what matters to us. In this spirit, WMAT has concluded that sharing our concerns should be part of Follen’s worship service, and “Concerns” will once again be part of “Sharing Our Joys and Sorrows” later in February.

The Worship and Music Action Team:

Bart Carr

Catherine Collins

John Dacey, Chair

Bernard Harleston

Walter Leutz

Marie Tulin

ANYTHING GOES!

*Save the date for the
FOLLEN GOODS AND
SERVICES AUCTION
on MAY 5 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.*



It is not too early to mark your calendar for this fun evening with Follen folk. It is not too early to start thinking about what you might donate to the auction! Watch this space for more information.

Amy Horsburgh, Auction Chair

Coffee Hour Thank-You's

As you may be aware, the Social Events Committee sponsors a coffee hour in the Community Center after the services each Sunday, with finger foods provided by volunteers. By enlisting everyone’s help in this endeavor, it means that each household only provides food for coffee hour about once every two years. Thank you to these volunteers who contributed food in the past few months:

Kathy Blake and John Lawlor

Tasha Bonfanti Balsom

Sylvia Boyd

Margaret Bradley, Patrice & Michael Briskin

Kate & Alex Bromley

Dennis & Sally Brown

Carl & Suzie Byers

Dominique Vo

Sytske & Chris Campbell

Lillian Carlson

Laurel Carpenter & Greg Shenstone

Diane & Bart Carr

Karen Gray & Bill Carruthers

Joe Caruso & Tara Fleming

David & Cindy Carver

From the Partner Church Committee

Gratitude is the word that we have come away with from our February 5th Partner Church Service. It was heartfelt, meaningful and the music was beautiful. We are grateful to our interim minister, Tricia, for her talk about our partner minister, Jozsef. We are grateful to Kay Lamer for her talk about her scholarship student of ten years who is today assistant minister at a major Unitarian congregation in Kolozsvar, Transylvania. We are grateful to Debra and her teenage helpers who delivered a wonderful story for us. And we are grateful for the lovely music, all by Hungarian composers in honor of our Hungarian partners, carefully chosen by Thomas and Holly, and played by Thomas, and sung by the youth and junior choirs so beautifully.

Forty two people enjoyed a delicious Hungarian lunch cooked and baked by members of the Partner Church Committee. We are very grateful for our cooks and bakers and the guests who came to partake!

We are grateful to all the scholarship donors this year. The money has been sent and will reach your students in the near future. Their minister Jozsef tells us that their congregation is very grateful for the scholarships, and also the fact that with our help, their parsonage attic space is now extended living space for the minister's family. Our congregation has contributed towards this construction project over the last three years, and it is almost done; one more room to finish.

We are grateful to each and every one of you who has donated to the Share the Plate collection this past Sunday. You have been very generous, and we are on our way to being able to help our partners, AND realize our dream of bringing some of their church leaders and minister to visit us in the near future.

If there is anyone who would still like to donate, please send your check made out to Follen Church to Sarah Garner, and write "Partner Church" on the memo line.

February Soup Supper

Join us for the monthly Thursday Soup Supper on February 16th at the home of Wilma Ronco, Avalon Hills, Lexington, with camaraderie and delicious food. Same drill: just show up, with optional children! There will be both vegetarian and non-veg soups, and mac & cheese for the kids. Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You are welcomed to bring other soups, bread/rolls, a beverage, or dessert; please call Wilma to coordinate through the church office.



Directions to Wilma's: are available at Follen.

Thanks to Nancy and Steve Sofen for hosting January's get-together; there were 30 adults and 8 children attending!

UU-101 Class

Sunday, March 4, 12:15-2:15pm
Marshman Center

If you are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, UU-101 is for you, whether you are new to UU, or just want a refresher. This class explores the spirit, principles and sources of wisdom underlying Unitarian Universalism. It will be led by the Rev. Cricket Potter, one of our Interim Co-Ministers. We'll provide lunch and childcare. We'll need to know childcare needs **at least 3 days prior to the class** in order to make arrangements. To register, please contact Harriet Peterson, Membership Coordinator, at membership@follen.org.

Winter/Spring Yoga at Follen

Winter-Spring Yoga Series with certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher, Betsy Leutz, runs February 2nd through April in the Follen Community Center, Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Class dates are: 02/02, 02/09, 02/16 (No Class on 02/23); 03/01, 03/08, 03/15, 03/22, (no class on 03/29 or 04/05) 04/12, 04/19, 04/26. Cost for the 10-week series is \$100. Experienced yogis may attend on a drop-in basis at \$15/class. For more information and/or to register for the series contact Betsy through the church office.



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 Web site: www.follen.org

The *Newsletter* is published eight times a year and is free for members and friends of the Church. Items for publication must be submitted by the deadline, and are subject to review. Please be aware that the newsletter is available on our website, so plan your submissions accordingly.

POSTMASTER: PLEASE RUSH!
DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Follen Staff:

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Upcoming Follen Events:

Sun. Feb. 12 8:30 am Special Needs Parents (M)
 8:30 am Social Justice AT (E/A)
 8:45 am Parents of Adults w/ Sp. Needs (L)
 9:00 am Senior Choir (S)
 10:00 am Family Worship (S)
 10:30 am Worship (S)
 11:45 am Social Events (E/A)
 12:00 pm Lay Ministry Mtg. (M)
 12:15 pm Congregational Mtg. (S)
 5:00 pm FUUY Advisors (L)
 6:30 pm FUUY (CC)

Mon. Feb. 13 5:00 pm Youth Choir (S)
 5:15 pm Junior Choir (ASR)
 7:30 pm Membership Cte. (ASR)
 7:30 pm Parish Board (M)

Tues. Feb. 14 7:30 pm Senior Choir (S)

Wed. Feb. 15 10:00 am Knitting (ASR)
 7:00 pm Knitting (E/A)
 7:30 pm B & G Action Team (M)
 7:30 pm FHRAT (ASR)

Thurs. Feb. 16 6:00 pm Yoga (CC)
 6:00 pm Soup Supper (off-site)
 7:00 pm Usher Training (S)

Sat. Feb. 18 10:00 am Collage Workshop (ASR))

Sun. Feb. 19 9:00 am Senior Choir (S)
 10:30 am Worship (S)
 12:00 pm Reflections (ASR)
 12:00 pm Partner Church (E/A)
 6:30 pm FUUY (CC)

Mon. Feb. 20 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED

Tues. Feb. 21 7:30 pm Senior Choir (S)

Wed. Feb. 22 10:00 am Knitting (ASR)

Sun. Feb. 26 8:30 am Special Needs Parents (M)

9:00 am Senior Choir (S)
 10:00 am Family Worship (S)
 10:30 am Worship (S)
 12:00 pm Reflections (ASR)
 12:00 pm Meet with the Ministers (M)
 12:30 pm Coming of Age Parents (E/A)
 6:30 pm FUUY (CC)

Mon. Feb. 27 5:00 pm Youth Choir (S)
 5:15 pm Junior Choir (ASR)
 7:30 pm Financial & HR (ASR)

Tues. Feb. 28 7:30 pm Senior Choir (S)

Wed. Feb. 29 10:00 am Knitting (ASR)
 7:00 pm Coordinating Team (ASR)

Thurs. March 1 12:00 pm LICA Luncheon (ASR)
 6:00 pm Yoga (CC)
 7:15 pm Cov. Group Steering (M)

Sun. March 4 8:30 am Special Needs Parents (M)
 9:00 am Youth Choir (S)
 9:45 am Junior Choir (S)
 10:30 am Multigenerational Worship (S)
 11:30 am MSYG (Gr. 7 & 8) (E/A)
 11:45 am Social Events (ASR)
 12:00 pm Coming of Age (M)
 12:15 pm UU 101 (M)
 5:00 pm NOLA Movie/Discussion (CC)
 5:30 pm MSYG (Gr. 6) (M)
 6:30 pm FUUY (CC)

Mon. March 5 5:00 pm Youth Choir (S)
 5:15 pm Junior Choir (ASR)
 7:30 pm Financial & HR (ASR)

Tues. March 6 7:30 pm Senior Choir (S)

Wed. March 7 10:00 am Knitting (ASR)
 7:00 pm Worship, Music AT (ASR)

Thurs. March 8 6:00 pm Yoga (CC)
 7:30 pm RE AT (ASR)

Sat. March 10 10:00 am Soul Collage (ASR)