



THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN FALL RIVER.

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When we think of a church, what do we think of? Often it means a building, usually with a steeple, with an pulpit inside, perhaps an altar or communion table, pews for seating, stained glass windows to provide beautiful images (or perhaps to keep us from being distracted by what's going on outside), and often with candles and hanging chandeliers for lighting.

But while that is a description of the style of many churches, including many Unitarian Universalist churches, it is not the style of ours. And of course, there are many other churches of all traditions and denominations, which don't fit that description, either. We can think of the oldest churches of our tradition with their very Puritanical design, clear windows, no designs on the walls, simple pews, no altar, perhaps a large, elaborate central pulpit. Other modern structures like ours that depart from all the traditional styles and appearances are increasingly common.

The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.

— *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

What is common is the purpose of providing a special, some would say sacred, place to come together to seek a wider understanding of life and our place in it, to celebrate the wisdom of the past and explore wider understandings of the future, through the worship of God, the celebration of life, the exploration of wisdom and knowledge, to join in fellowship for our own individual betterment and the betterment of our world.

And in our tradition, the purpose, meaning and life of the church are all made real only by our individual participation and presence in it. See you on Sundays! — *CFFlagg*

Sundays at 10:30

Followed by Coffee and Fellowship (and something more the first Sunday of the month)

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|------------------------|---|
| March 7 th | One Direction? Many Angles? (POT LUCK SUNDAY) |
| March 14 th | Searching for Meaning |
| March 21 st | What Should We Explore? |
| March 28 th | Justice Sunday: On Faith and Justice |
| April 4 th | What Do We Expect from Faith? |

Womensphere Spring Gathering

Please join Unitarian Universalist women at a Day for Women with Dharma Teacher **Joanne Friday**, Buddhist teacher in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. The day's theme will be "Listening as a Spiritual Practice, Hearing with the Heart". The program will be Saturday, March 27, 2010, from 9:30am through 3:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, 840 Sandwich Road, Falmouth MA. The deadline to register is Friday, March 19. The fee of \$20 includes registration and lunch. Scholarships are available. Contact dschmader@cox.net

UNIVERSALIST CONVOCATION 2010

May 14-16, 2010
First Universalist Society of Rochester, NY

Keynote: The Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, "Dragged Kicking and Screaming to Heaven"

For more information please go to
nmuc.org/Convo

***Universalist Convocations is an
Independent Affiliate of the
UUA***

Go to unitarianchurchfr.org for links to more information.

St. Patrick

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all his celebrity, his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting [bird](#)
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

Robert Frost

Taken Prisoner By Irish Raiders

It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick



came from a particularly religious family. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.) During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.)

Guided By Visions

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice—which he believed to be God's—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland.

To do so, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced a second revelation—an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary. Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission—to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. (Interestingly,

this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.)

Bonfires and Crosses



Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish. (Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when Patrick arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion. The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. When this is considered, it is no surprise that the story of Patrick's life became exaggerated over the centuries—spinning exciting tales to remember history has always been a part of the Irish way of life.)

<http://www.history.com/content/stpatricksday/who-was-st.-patrick>

A Big reminder that Daylight Savings Time starts on March 14th. Remember to set your clocks ahead, so that you can make it to church services on time.

The first Day of Spring arrives March 20th. Spring is one of the four [temperate seasons](#), the transition period between winter and summer. Its [days](#) are close to twelve hours long with



increasing day length, as it occurs near the time of an [equinox](#). In the [Northern Hemisphere](#), spring runs from [March](#) into [May](#), and in the [Southern Hemisphere](#) it runs from [September](#) into [November](#). Spring is also the [tropical cyclone](#) season in both hemispheres, although it is delayed longer in the north Atlantic Ocean than the other [ocean basins](#).

The Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Society in Fall River will be held following the Sunday Service on April 11th. We will be holding it “Pot Luck” Style and you are invited to bring a dish, a dessert or an appetizer.

The reports from the various committees are due now to provide enough time to assemble them into a comprehensive missile.

Remember to remember your church.

Easily Provide Support Through Your Will

One of the most popular and easiest ways to support the good work of our community is to remember our congregation in your will. Although the legacies you typically read about in the papers are grand in scope, most people who leave assets to charitable organizations through their wills are of modest means. Here are some future and ongoing needs that your donation could support:

- Expand and enhance programs or initiatives in your congregation
- Continue to maintain or build facilities
- Ensure the future of your religious community

Completing Your Gift

So how do you remember us in your will? While planning or updating your will, simply tell your attorney that you want to leave something for our congregation. A common practice when including a bequest in your estate is to leave a *percentage*, rather than a fixed amount, to us. That way, your bequest to the congregation remains in proportion to other bequests.

Estate Planning Toolbox

4 MUST-HAVE RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTS

Armed with these four basic resources and documents, you’ll be well prepared to navigate life’s inevitable twists and turns.

- 1. An attorney:** Investing in the services of an estate planning attorney will save you immeasurable heartache and expense later. This person’s professional experience can prove invaluable as you make crucial decisions.
- 2. A will:** This document ensures that your wishes are carried out at your death—that your family, friends and favorite charities receive the consideration you intended.
- 3. A durable power of attorney:** If you should lapse into incompetence, this document provides another person with the legal right to make *financial* decisions on your behalf. Structured in many ways, this document is often used to ensure that your business, financial and other important affairs continue in your best interest.
- 4. A health care proxy:** This document names someone to make *health care* decisions on your behalf in the event you are incapacitated.



Update Your Estate Plan in 3 Easy Steps

Step 1: Make a list of all your major assets.

Compiling an inventory of everything you own helps you understand the variety of your assets: real estate, stocks, retirement plans, life insurance, bank accounts, certificates of deposit, art, antiques and jewelry. Some assets allow you to name a beneficiary to receive them directly upon your death. By doing this, you can make distributions to family or friends without the delay of probate.

Step 2: Think of everyone you wish to benefit, including charities you would like to support.

If you are considering a gift to us, we can help you choose a method that maximizes your money and satisfies your wishes and our needs.

Step 3: Enlist the help of an estate planning attorney.

Your will and estate plan are important because they benefit your family, friends and favorite charities after your lifetime. Maximize your options by seeking the help of an estate planning attorney who can ensure that your goals are accomplished and advise you of the implications of any contemplated moves.

Gathering the Necessary Paperwork

Do you have the legal documents necessary to ensure that your intentions are carried out after your lifetime? If so, it's time to get organized. The following estate planning documents and papers should be kept together to make taking care of your final affairs as simple and stress-free on your loved ones as possible.

Keep these documents in a safe place, such as a safe-deposit box—just make sure your family is aware of their location and where the key to your safe-deposit box is kept. Having these papers in one spot will ensure that your property is distributed how and to whom you wish.

Estate Planning

- A copy of your will or living trust
- Documents to help beneficiaries locate all assets passing to them, such as deeds of property, life insurance policies, where you have bank accounts and copies of account statements
- The names and addresses of:
 - Your executor and trustee
 - Your financial advisor
 - Your tax preparer
 - The individual you named as the attorney-in-fact in your power of attorney
 - The law firm that drafted your will or trust and the name of the specific attorney (Your original will can be kept at the firm.)
- Beneficiary designation forms for your retirement account, along with year-end statements and a listing of where you have accounts and what types.

Get organized today to make things easier for others in the future.