

WHY A SABBATICAL?

A sabbatical is a very old concept that relates to a period of rest, usually after four to six years. The root is from the word “Sabbath” the biblical term, meaning the day of rest after 6 days of labor. A ministry sabbatical is a release from the routine of the call for the physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of the ministry leader. Unitarian Universalist congregations grant their ministers a sabbatical period with full pay (and a smaller professional expense budget). Rev. Clarke is in her sixth year of ministry with us and this sabbatical is recommended by the UUA as part of what is considered Fair Compensation.

WHAT WILL WE DO WHILE SHE’S GONE?

This is an opportunity for us to move smoothly to the next stage of our development where leadership is shared by a larger number of members, allowing us to be less centered on one professional. One of the greatest ways for us to embrace this opportunity is to use Peggy’s absence to care well and often for each other. We can also reflect on our relationship with our minister and how we can best take advantage of her professional skills in the years ahead while meeting other needs ourselves. And, of course, this a wonderful time for us to celebrate each member’s work and commitment to our shared congregational life.

WILL WE HAVE CONTACT WITH REV. CLARKE DURING SABBATICAL?

Peggy’s sabbatical is a time for a complete break from her duties as our minister. While Peggy is gone, she will not be reachable. She won’t check work email nor will she return phone calls. If there is a serious emergency (i.e., death of a member), one of the officers of the congregation will contact her and she will return. But without such an event, we will not see or hear from Peggy until her Sabbatical ends. She’s even signing off from Facebook!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE RETURNS

Peggy returns on Thursday, June 1. She will be in Boston with our Coming of Age group on Saturday, June 3 and in the pulpit on Sunday, June 4, when she will also attend our Annual Meeting. On Sunday, June 11, during Flower Communion and Bridging, we will have a blessing and formal send-off to Emily DeTar Birt as she leaves us and begins her next ministry. Peggy will attend General Assembly at the end of June.

SABBATICAL COMMITTEE

If you have questions about the sabbatical, please contact any member of the Sabbatical Committee, listed below:

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Gina Piazza
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Ross Crolius
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Jeremy Hopwood
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Sue McAnanama
- 


Ken Perry
- 


Ned Towle
- 

Jim Wrightsman
- President*
- Committee on Ministry, Facilities & Grounds Committees*
- Worship Associates and Religious Education Ministry*
- Vice President, Hospitality, Social Justice Committee*
- Board Secretary, Social Justice, Emergency Response Team*
- Worship Associates*
- Committee on Ministry, Worship Associates, Emergency Response*

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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Emily DeTar Birt
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Tracy Breneman, DRE
- 

Rita Ruotolo
- Sabbatical Minister*
- (8 hours a week)*
- emily.firstuws@gmail.com*
- Director Religious Education*
- (20 hours a week)*
- dretracyb@gmail.com*
- Administrator*
- (20 hours a week)*
- admin@fusw.org*



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First Unitarian Society of Westchester

Sabbatical Time:
A Guide to Rev. Peggy Clarke’s Sabbatical



From January 1st to May 31st , 2017

Rev. Peggy Clarke is going on Sabbatical from January 1 to May 31, 2017. Sabbatical is a time of paid personal leave with the intention of encouraging growth and development in the arts of ministry through education and spiritual renewal.

Sabbaticals are times for renewal, so our hope for Peggy is that she rests. During the normal course of the year, Peggy works six days a week and during the busy seasons, it’s often seven. Ministers use sabbatical time to reconnect with family and to engage in their own spiritual practices so that they can return to us feeling more deeply connected and with a renewed spirit.

During her sabbatical, Peggy will attend training on staff supervision, increase skills in her role as a teaching pastor, create congregational resources for shifting to renewable energy, and do some theological grounding on ecclesiologies for the 21st century. We trust that Peggy will use this time to position herself to better serve us and our denomination when she returns.

A Guide to Rev. Peggy Clarke's Sabbatical

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FUSW WHILE PEGGY'S GONE?

The First Unitarian Society will remain a vibrant and busy place in Peggy's absence. Worship will continue every Sunday with Emily often in our pulpit and Program Groups and other groups filling in. Diane Guernsey, our Pianist-in-Residence will be at the piano and our choir will sing. Community Nights will continue on the first and third Fridays. Our Junior and Senior Youth Groups will continue to use that time as will the Men's Group, the new Women's Group, the Anti-Oppression Learning Group and our Social Justice Team. Midnight Run, Common Ground, Job Support, First Friday Women's Group, Path to Membership and other regular offerings will continue unimpeded. The final Healthy Congregations workshop will be held and the covenant process that we started this fall will continue through the year with the help of Charlie Wiecha and his Covenant Team. We will continue to build a stronger coalition and relationship with the other four Westchester UU congregations to stand on the side of love and work together to respond as needs arise.

COVERAGE OF MINISTERIAL DUTIES



Our Board is at the helm. Currently led by Gina Piazza, we have a wonderful team of leaders including dedicated VP, Sue McAnanama. Emily DeTar Birt, as our Sabbatical Minister, will fill our pulpit eight times and our Program Groups, youth groups and several committees will run all their services while Peggy is gone. Our Worship Associates will also be paying attention to assure there are no gaps in service. Our Administrator, Rita Ruotolo, will work 20 hours a week and will direct inquires to leadership. Tracy Breneman, our Director of Religious Exploration, will continue to manage and oversee Religious Education.



PASTORAL CARE

Much of Peggy's ministry is spent engaged in pastoral care. Emily DeTar Birt has been working on building up our Caring Committee for concrete needs like rides to doctors or food trains. Emily will also be available for pastoral care, as will our new Pastoral Care Associate Team. Pastoral Care Associates are now available to help our members through difficult times while Peggy is away. This team of astounding leaders will be here to listen to you when you need someone. Pastoral Care Associates are not here to provide therapy or ongoing services, but they can catch you if you're falling and help put you back on your feet so you can get the help you need. In Peggy's absence, they will provide a Ministry of Presence.

In addition to our Board of Trustees, our Sabbatical Minister, our Director of Religious Education, Pastoral Care Associates and Worship Associates, our Committee on Ministry will continue to do the work of caring for the congregation by paying attention to the big picture, taking a balcony view and ensuring our systems are running smoothly. They are ready to handle conflict, should it arise and will support Tracy and Emily, our professional staff.

MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

As many of you know, Peggy has access to a Minister's Discretionary Fund. This fund has been available to our members for many years and is similar to funds other churches have. The money is given on a case-by-case basis, generally to members, in times of hardship or financial emergency. This is done in complete privacy and no one other than the minister knows to whom the money was given. But, while she's gone, we want that money to be available if it's needed. If you find yourself in need of assistance, please contact Amy Jo Neill.



RELEVANT CONTACT NAMES AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

BOARD MEMBERS

Gina Piazza, President:	ginap.uu@gmail.com
Sue McAnanama, Vice President:	suebu@aol.com
Amy Jo Neill, Treasurer:	amyjo101@gmail.com
Ken Perry, Secretary:	krperry@gmail.com
Irene Jong, Trustee:	ijong@outlook.com
Bill Reynolds, Trustee:	wreynolds12@outlook.com
Kevin Weber, Trustee:	kevweb50@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Ross Crolus, Chair:	songfellows4@aol.com
Carol Ehler:	carolehler@gmail.com
Betty Gilmore:	emgilmore1@msn.com
Jim Wrightsman:	jameswrightsman@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES

Lisa DeMauro:	ldemauro@optonline.net
Carol Ehler:	carolehler@gmail.com
Nancy Eisenman:	NBEisenman@aol.com
Betty Gilmore:	emgilmore1@msn.com
Irene Jong:	ijong@outlook.com

WORSHIP ASSOCIATES

April Castoldi:	aprilcastoldi@icloud.com
Sarah Clarke:	byars.sarah@gmail.com
Jeremy Hopwood:	jeremyhopwood2000@yahoo.com
Ryan Mon:	(a youth, so his email will remain private)
Laurie Schneider:	laurieida@gmail.com
Ned Towle:	nedtowle@wwsny.com
Jim Wrightsman:	jameswrightsman@gmail.com

If you have a need that none of these people can meet, the other UU ministers in Westchester county have agreed to provide back-up while Peggy is away. In case of emergency, feel free to contact one of the ministers listed below.

LOCAL UU MINISTERS (Best to be called in this order)

Rev. Meredith Garmon (White Plains):	mgarmon@uuma.org
Rev. Michael Tino (Mt. Kisco):	mtino@uuma.org
Rev. Sarah Lenzi (Croton):	revdrlenzi@gmail.com
Rev. Karen Brammer (Mohegan Lake):	karen.molake@gmail.com