

the steeple

The Congregational Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington
April 2018

Roll Out the Website!

By Christina Fulton, Director of Operations

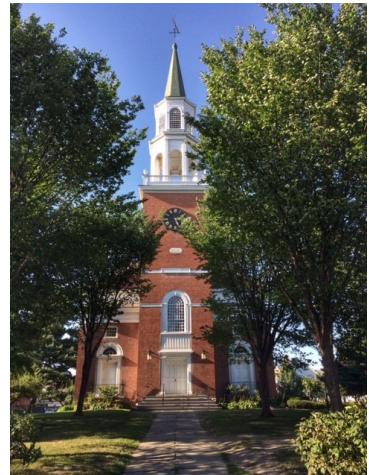


I grew up in the Detroit area with lots of Polish heritage. Every wedding reception I attended was celebrated with relatives dancing the polka. Celebration and polkas just go hand in hand for me. So as we drew closer to launching our website, it was no surprise to me that I began singing to myself, "Roll out the website, we'll have a barrel of fun!" For those of you who did not grow up

Polish, you can listen to the song here: [youtube.com/watch?v=9SfyObUd5e8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SfyObUd5e8). We have reached that time—time to dance the polka and Roll Out the Website!!

As many of you know all too well, our old website had been in a bad place for quite a while. It was developed in a time when large portions of websites were inaccessible to anyone but the original designers, and our original designers had gone out of business. Therefore, we had photographs of small children on our homepage who are now ready to graduate high school and our directory could no longer be updated. In short, it was a mess.

Three years ago I did some research and found it would cost upwards of \$20,000 to have someone design a new website for us. Where on earth was that money going to come from? And then the UUA launched their new website and offered the basic design to any UU congregation that wanted it, for FREE! We began the process of mapping our current site and figuring



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Roll Out the Website!

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out what exactly we wanted to have on our new website. But alas, this all took so much time and we needed a working site now. Finally, last fall, I hired our very own member Lori Roberts and her company (perfectcircleonline.com) to get the job done. Lori was awesome! She walked us through the process and pulled everything together. And by the end of December, we had a new website online.

The next piece of development that needed to happen before we did our formal launch was to connect our database program, ACS, with the website. This, for me, is so exciting. This ACS link will allow members to access and update their own personal/family information, their pledge status, the Society calendar, the Society directory, a skills and interests survey, and more! These are all things that we've dreamed of having for years and now it's a reality! Look for the article in this *Steeple* on "Access ACS" for instructions on how to sign up for this exciting new feature.

So now's the time to dance yourself over to the website uusociety.org and check it out! Look at all the amazing information we have there. Bookmark the address; get in the habit of checking out the website a couple times a week. Share the link with your family and friends. Look later in this *Steeple* for a list of highlights. Thank you all for your patience with this project. If you find that we're missing something important or if you find a link that doesn't work, please do not hesitate to let me know.

You'll find me doing the polka in my office! Roll out the website, we'll have a website of fun! Roll out the website, we'll have the blues on the run!



From the FUUSB Board of Trustees

Seeking Transition Task Force Members

Your Board of Trustees is seeking two individuals to serve on the transition task force, which will conduct the search for a transition minister to lead our Society for the next two years.

The charge of the transition task force is to review applications from potential transition ministers, interview candidates and recommend a candidate to the Board. This will be based upon the candidate's strengths and best match of skills within our stated priorities of focus and momentum for our Society's programming. The timeline is late April and May.

All those who are interested and have relevant experience are invited to complete the Declaration of Interest information listed below and return it by no later than **April 15, 2018** to Debby Bergh (debbergh@comcast.net) and Dan House (telenook@comcast.net).

Declaration of Interest to join Transition Task Force:

- Name
- Contact information
- Reason for interest
- Relevant experience

From the Stewardship Team

Stewardship 2018—Answering the Call of Love & Justice

Dear UU Family and Friends -

This month's spiritual theme, *Emergence*, asks us to reflect on what "new we might emerge into." As we come close to the end of the formal part of the Stewardship campaign, we are inspired to reflect on what has emerged from our campaign.

We know that much of what we sowed has flowered. The commitment to our mission, our values, and all we do is revealed in our generosity: as of April 10, we raised \$385,500 from 70% of our pledging units, 37% of whom increased their pledges and only 19% who decreased their pledges. This was 85% of all we raised last year—and bodes well for our Society's financial health for 2018-19.

We also have been open to new ways of doing things, what the *Path*'s introduction on *Emergence* calls "being open to a new path, walking with a new step, and being awakened to new songs all around us." We have started on a new path towards sustainable staffing, and will continue this journey despite detours along the way.

Emergence asks us to trust that a transformation need not be "a long and lonely struggle, but instead can be more like learning a new dance with a new friend. All we have to do is trust..." Your stewardship of our Society shows how true this is. We are in the early stages of changes and growth in our ministerial and staff structure and, while this is uncharted territory for us, we travel this path together as a congregation. We also know that the gratitude and generosity expressed in our pledges show our deeply rooted commitment to our UU values. This commitment is essential to our efforts to realize our Sustainable Staffing Plan, our "new dance steps."

Our collective strength, resilience, and power will lead us along the path through the next part of our journey, and beyond.

As your Stewardship Team, we are proud to be *emerging* with you, answering the call for love and justice within ourselves, among our members, and in the wider community beyond. Thank you for dancing with us. And remember that if you have not yet pledged, you can still pledge online anytime at usociety.org/donate/stewardship/, or by mail, or at the meetinghouse where pledge cards are available.

When you pledge, your name will be entered into a raffle for gift certificates generously donated by Phoenix Books, the Peace and Justice Center, and Church Street Marketplace.

With gratitude for your generosity and commitment to our UU Society,

*Nancy Knox and Kim Hier,
Stewardship Team co-chairs*



Your Website at a Glance

By Christina Fulton, Director of Operations

We have a new website, but it's at the same old address: uusociety.org

Here are some Frequently Used Links (FUL) for your convenience.

Home Page uusociety.org

- **Coming This Sunday** - In the upper right corner you will always be able to get the summary of this Sunday's worship.
- **Events** - In the lower left corner you will find a list of selected upcoming events. Click on the name of the event to get the details.
- **News** - In the lower center you will find news about building closings and meeting cancellations (inclement weather), links to FUUSB in the news, and important announcements from the UUA.
- **Food for Thought** - In the lower right you will find an inspirational quote on this month's theme.
- **Stay Connected** - In the lower center you will find links to the most recent versions of all our regular publications (*eNews, Steeple, Path*, etc.) and a link to sign up to receive these publications if you're not already on the mailing list. This is where you send your friends who are interested in knowing more about FUUSB!
- **Society Calendar** - In the bottom center you will find a link to our complete Society Calendar.



Classes for Newcomers - uusociety.org/information/classes-for-newcomers/

Our Mission, Values and Ends - uusociety.org/information/our-mission-and-vision/

Parking and Accessibility - uusociety.org/information/parking-and-accessibility/

Pastoral Emergency - uusociety.org/belonging/spiritual-support/

Care Network Team - uusociety.org/belonging/care-network/

Spiritual Growth and Learning - uusociety.org/spiritual-growth/

Social Justice - uusociety.org/justice-and-outreach/owl/
OWL (Our Whole Lives) - uusociety.org/spiritual-growth/owl-whole-lives/

Theme Circles and Small Group Ministry - uusociety.org/spiritual-growth/small-groups-for-reflection-and-growth/

Access ACS - uusociety.org/members/access-acs-members-stay-connected/

Forms (including Blue Sheets and Check Requests) - uusociety.org/members/forms/

Governance Documents (including By-Laws) - uusociety.org/members/governance-documents/

Meeting Minutes - uusociety.org/members/meeting-minutes/

Giving and Pledge Cards - uusociety.org/donate/

Planned Giving - uusociety.org/donate/planned-giving/

Stewardship - uusociety.org/donate/stewardship/

Access ACS—How Members Stay Connected!

By Christina Fulton, Director of Operations

Access ACS is your connection to the Society's database. By signing up, you will be able to:

- Update your personal information (address, phone number, email address, etc.)
- Check your personal pledge status
- Print a copy of your tax statement
- Update your skills and interests information
- Browse current opportunities for participation
- Add a photograph of you and/or your family
- Access the Society Directory
- View the Society Calendar
- We will be adding more options soon! (classes, groups, registration, pledge payment set-up, etc.)

Signing up is easy! Just click on this link:

uusociety.org/members/access-acs-members-stay-connected/ and you will be taken to a login page.

To obtain your login and password, look below the box to where it says, "Need a Login? Click Here," and click! Once you get your login, you can access all the above offerings by going to the Members tab on the website. Want to make it super easy? Bookmark the above link, then you'll be able to get to this spot with one click.



Do you want access to the Society Directory and Calendar while you're on the go? Go to the App Store and download the "Church Life" app. Use your same login and password, and you can have Access ACS everywhere you go!

Visiting a member but not sure where they live? Look them up in the Directory, click on their address, and up pops a Google map with directions to their house! Trying to schedule an event during a committee meeting? Look at the calendar in the Church Life app to see if the space is available that day!

This is such a wonderful opportunity for members to have the information they need right at their fingertips! But it's only helpful if you sign up. So please do it now. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Christina at xina@uusociety.org.

Summer

Worship Service

Schedule



On Sunday, **May 20**,
we will begin our **one service**
summer schedule.

Join us for worship at
10 a.m. on Sundays!

From the Sanctuary and Solidarity Task Force

What We Share with Other Faith Traditions: Classes on Islam at FUUSB

By Caitlin Waddick



Have you ever read the Qur'an? Here is your chance! The Sanctuary and Solidarity Task Force seeks to deepen our understanding of Islam as a way to combat Islamophobia and be ready for solidarity actions with our neighbors of this faith. We sponsored a two-part film series in January and February. The films were "Inside Islam: A Sweeping Story of One of the World's Great Faiths" (produced by the History Channel) and "Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think" (based on a Gallop poll). Thank you for making the film series a smashing success. Next, the Task Force has invited me to teach two classes about Islam, based partly on what we teach our seventh graders in the world religions program called Building Bridges (formerly known as Neighboring Faiths).

The first lesson, "Peace by Surrender," will cover the numbers of religious adherents, the life of Muhammed, the five pillars of Islam, and beliefs shared with Unitarian Universalism. We could also practice Muslim greetings and Arabic script. The second lesson on "Contemporary Issues" might include the division between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, comparisons between Islam and associated religions (Judaism, Christianity, Sufism, Sikhism, and Baha'i), the life of Khadijah, women's status, and Muslims in peace and conflict. We would have time for asking questions and having discussions. What topics do you want to learn about? Do you have pictures or objects to share?

Generally, we are thinking about ways to honor our value for religious pluralism with programming about the beliefs and practices of other faiths.

What faith traditions would you like to explore with other UUs? I would be willing to cooperatively lead and organize other classes like these, based on your interests.

These classes will be held at FUUSB on April 22 and May 6. For more details and to RSVP, please see this week's *eNews*.

Caitlin may be reached at Caitlin.Waddick@gmail.com.



Interested in writing an article for *The Steeple*?

The next issue of *The Steeple* will be published in June. The deadline to submit articles is **May 28**.

If you would like to write an article for the June issue, please email newsletter@uusociety.org.

New Horizons in Faith Formation

By Andrea Spencer-Linzie, Developmental Director of Family Ministry



FUUSB has created an exciting vision for the future of Faith Formation by supporting the development of Family Ministry programming.

Family Ministry incorporates much of what we already understand about Religious Education, and it goes further, as well. Family Ministry utilizes curriculum-based faith formation. It also incorporates strong support of the family in faith formation, both at the Society and at home.

Family Ministry also has a wider reach. It prioritizes relationship and community building within the congregation. "Family," then, takes on a meaning that includes both related members of a family, as well as a larger sense of family that includes inter-generational relationships among congregants. To build beloved community, we share values and principles, and at the core it is about reaching out to know one another, to learn together, to support one another.

In a Family Ministry model, relationships are key, and multi-generational programming and faith formation provides opportunities to build relationships and friendships with individuals, youth and young adults, families, and across generations. Imagine all that we will learn from one another in intentional community building. All that we could experience, all that we could accomplish, all that we could envision, becomes incarnated love in our community.

Through the end of this year, over the summer, and throughout next year there will be several

opportunities to dialogue about what Family Ministry could look like here at FUUSB, to envision how we might integrate opportunities for service, justice-making, and faith formation with families and across generations.

The first opportunity for dialogue is on May 5. See the *eNews* for details and to register. Refreshments and child care are available.



2018 UUA General Assembly!

GA is in Kansas City, Missouri
June 20-24.

Think you might be interested?
Check it out on the UUA website:

www.uua.org/ga





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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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