



# CROSSROADS



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn

January 2012

## **Service Information:**

January 15, MLK Sunday –  
Kate Landis preaching

January 22 –  
Rev. Detering preaching

January 29 – Rev. Jesse  
Jaeger, Executive Director  
of UU Mass Action,  
preaching

## **Inside this issue:**

Reflections	3
Membership Corner	4
Social Action & News	4-5
An Intern's Journey	6
Contact	7

## **Minister's Message**

**By Reverend Nathan Detering**

Last January I shared these words from my esteemed colleague Rev. Dr. Forrest Church, who passed away more than two years ago. In the season of resolutions, promises, hoped for new beginnings, and things that remain the same despite the calendar turning, Forrest gives us a way to start again. I print them here so that you can put them on your fridge, on your nightstand, or wherever you go when reminders for your New Beginnings.

With love in the New Year,

Nathan



### How to Begin (Changing Your Life) by Forrest Church

1. Begin here. How deeply you would long for all the things you take for granted, if suddenly you lost them. So much of what we want we have already, so want what you have. Begin here.
2. Begin now. You have everything you need. Everything. Plus the bonus of today, one day more than you will have if you wait until tomorrow. Begin now.
3. Begin as you are. At your fingertips is a treasure trove of memories and dreams. Put one good memory together with one good dream and you are ready to begin. (Good memories are memories that make you feel good about yourself. Good dreams are the stuff of which tomorrow's good memories are made.) Begin as you are.
4. Begin by doing what you can. No more, but also no less. Don't throw yourself against the wall. Walk around it. You can't do the impossible, but so much is possible. So many of the things you haven't tried you still can do. To get around the wall, you can set out in either direction—the wall has two ends. The important thing is to start walking. Begin by doing what you can.
5. Begin with those who are closest to you. They can cheer you on only if you let them. Invite them to give you a hand—bow. And to lend you a hand—ask. And to take your hand—no one can take your hand, if you bury it in your pocket. You say they won't cheer you on, help you out, or take your hand? Maybe not, but how will you know without asking? Begin by asking.
6. Begin by turning the page. Today you can open a new chapter of your life. If you are trapped in your story (stuck in place, botching the same old lines), revise the script. Practice a new line or two. When reading a book, we sometimes reach the bottom of a page only to realize we have been glossing its words without registering their meaning. We haven't been paying attention. We don't have the faintest idea what we've just read. So we go back to the top of the page and try to concentrate. It happens again. Sentences dissolve into words. Words into sounds. The books of our lives are no different. Resist the temptation to wallow over some dark passage until you know exactly what went wrong. You never will. Besides, perfection is not life's goal. Neither is unnecessary pain. If you are stuck, open a new chapter. Turn the page.
7. Begin by cleaning up your slate. Don't erase the past. File it by experience, to keep it handy should you need it. But don't obsess over it. Ticking off a growing list of grievances gets you nothing from life's store. As for the things on your "To Do" list that you'll probably never do, place them under a statute of limitations. When they serve no longer to inspire but only to haunt you, x them off. Not only is there no reason to carry over unnecessary indictments from one day to the next, but you'll also never reform the things you can about yourself, until you stop trying to reform the things you can't. Begin by cleaning up your slate.
8. Begin by looking for new questions, not old answers. Answers close doors. Questions open them. Answers lock us in place. Questions lead us on adventures. Socrates boasted himself the most ignorant man in Athens. Each new insight raised a dozen questions, extending the compass of his ignorance. Yet beyond every ridge he climbed there lay a wider vista. The more questions we have, the farther we can see.
9. Begin with little regard for where your path may lead. Destinations are overrated. And never what we imagine. Even should we somehow manage to get where we are heading, we won't end up there. Until life ends, no destination is final. In fact, the best destinations are those we look back upon as new beginnings. Good journeys always continue. So don't be driven by desire (that empty place within you), never to rest until you reach your goal. Invest your joy in the journey.

Begin in the middle. Our lives will end mid-story, so why not begin there? Don't wait around for the perfect starting pistol. Or until you are ready. You may never be ready. No reason to wait in the grandstand for some official to guide you to the gate. Jump the fence. Enter the race in the middle. Here. Now. As you are. By doing what you can. With those who are closest to you. By turning the page. Cleaning up your slate. Looking for new questions, not old answers. And with little regard for where your path will lead.

Finally, before you begin, a bonus suggestion—Begin small. Dream possible dreams. Set out to climb a single hill, not every mountain. Soul work needn't be strenuous to be high impact. You can begin transforming your life with a single phone call. Or by writing a kind letter. Or by opening your blinds to let the sun flood in. Don't say it's nothing. It's everything. For you have now begun.

## REflections

Kate Holland, Director of Religious Education

The month of January our worship theme is, Epiphany: The Practice of Discovery. With that in mind, I wanted to offer everyone an opportunity to discover your Unitarian Universalist spirit this summer. January as crazy as it often seems to me is the time when families start to consider what their summer plans will be for camps and for vacations. As a family with kids we are flooded with advertisements for camps of all types from academic to sports camps. I would like to take the time to add another voice to the camp information that you may be looking at this year.

In the New England area we are blessed by being close to some of the best Unitarian Universalist camps and retreat centers in the area. There is Star Island in New Hampshire, Ferry Beach in Saco Maine and Unirondack in New York. All of these places offer camps for kids to sleep away and have a “traditional” camp experience with the Unitarian Universalist principals included in the curriculum and planning for the weeks the kids are away. They all also offer Family Weeks where families can go and enjoy programming together.

My family has gone to Ferry Beach several summers to be a part of the Religious Education week that they offer in July. At this conference children have programming in the mornings based on the week’s theme for the conference. Adults are also offered many options of programming for the week in the morning. All ages have lunch together and the afternoons and evenings offer things to do together or just time to enjoy the beach. It is a wonderful experience to feel engaged and relaxed with time together as a family and time to learn and relax alone too.

I have to say that I feel my children truly claimed their religious identity as Unitarian Universalists on Ferry Beach. My kids have enjoyed and learned about Unitarian Universalism in our church but the experience of being with a community of Unitarian Universalists from all over was when they really seemed to understand that being a Unitarian Universalist was something that went beyond the walls of our own congregation.

I hope that as you look at both camp and vacation options for this summer in the next few months you will consider possibly spending a week to discover and deepen your Unitarian Universalist spirit and identity. If you want to check out the camps on line for a complete list of sleep away camps and family weeks offered got to:

Star Island at: [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org)

Ferry Beach: [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org)

Unirondack: [www.unirondack.org](http://www.unirondack.org)

With Gratitude,

Kate



## Membership

by Katherine McHugh

### **From England to New England**

We warmly welcome the entire Curmi family who recently joined our congregation this past December, Amy, Michael, daughter Maddie (7), and son Charlie (4). Not only are they new to our church, they are relatively new to our area of the world as well. Having moved from London to the Boston area just four years ago, they currently reside in our neighboring town of Medfield.

Along with discovering the particular joys and culture that the New England area brings, the Unitarian Universalist faith was one that had been unfamiliar to them. Michael, born and raised in the United Kingdom, was brought up in the Church of England and both children were baptized in the Anglican Church. Amy, from Kansas, was raised in the Lutheran tradition. Michael and Amy want to share the tradition of church and the spiritual home it provides with their children.

They had been looking for a church that would resonate with their beliefs and values, and as so often happens with life, serendipity stepped in. Their son Charlie attends EC/DC nursery school right here in the church, and Amy casually picked up some of the brochures and information that we have on the UUAC and more broadly, on the principles of Unitarian Universalism. Much of what she read made sense to her, she could agree with what had been written. Together with her husband Michael, it was with curiosity and interest that they began to attend worship services with their two children attending religious education. Sharing what she learned with her husband Michael, they began to attend services.

Nathan's inspirational and engaging sermons, Kate's open hearted children's messages, the Religious Education program, and the "positive energy and atmosphere of the congregation" all contributed to their decision to become members of the UUAC. They look forward to coming to church on Sunday and for the spiritual nourishment it provides.

They are glad to have found a haven amidst their full and busy lives. Michael works as an IT director for a travel company, and Amy works at home as a mom with her two active and vibrant young children. We are glad they have found us and are grateful that Amy stepped right in as a new member during the holiday season, along with our new member Carly Baker, to coordinate the holiday wish list program. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of our community, 36 children were able to celebrate the holidays with presents this year. Service and volunteerism is an important part of living our UU faith-always wonderful to see it in action!

The Curmi family has embraced the New England winters with skiing and skating. However, they wish there was a little more snow this year- at least on the mountains! Michael and Amy love history and exploring local places to see how it has unfolded around New England and try to take weekend day trips whenever the kids' sports/activity schedules permit.

Hope you get an opportunity to meet them soon!

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network, February 5 - 12**

We will once again be hosting a small group of homeless families with children at UUAC on **February 5 through 12**. Those who have participated in this ministry agree that it is very heart-warming to know that we are providing food and shelter to these very deserving people as they try to improve their situation. The families stay overnight in our classrooms and eat their meals with us. We need people for setup and takedown, serving dinner each night, staying overnight with our guests, purchasing supplies and doing laundry.

Anyone who has not participated previously must have a CORI background check, and attend an IHN training session prior to interacting with the guests. Notify Joan Hunter ([ibh\\_11@verizon.net](mailto:ibh_11@verizon.net)) if you need a CORI form.

Upcoming training sessions are:

**Tuesday, Jan. 3**, Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, 207 Washington St., 6:30 PM.

**Monday, Jan. 16**, Peace Lutheran Church, Wayland, 107 Concord St., 6:30 PM

**Thursday, Jan. 19**, Christ Church, Wellesley, 2 Brook Street, 7 PM.

**Tuesday, Feb. 7**, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Holliston, 600 Central St., 6:30 PM

Feel free to ask Joan Hunter or Barbie Breer ([wmbarb1959@comcast.net](mailto:wmbarb1959@comcast.net)) if you have any questions about IHN.

### **Good As New Shop**

On Wednesday, January 11th 2012, the Good As New Shop will hold its one and only Winter Half Price Sale. Come and come early.

During the past several months the Shop has built up a good variety of new and gently used clothing for men, women and children. There are lots of warm coats, jackets and sweaters. In one corner the Shop features jewelry, china (everyday and fancy), and decorative items, in another, kitchenware, and there are plenty of books. Need a picture or picture frames, they are there too!

The Shop is open from 10 AM until 4 PM. You are invited to shop in, browse, have a cup of coffee, and talk with the friendly staff.

The Good as New Shop is a consignment shop operated for the benefit of this Church and support for its activities. It is staffed by volunteers, your neighbors, who appreciate your support. At the close of business on the 11th, everything remaining in the shop will be donated to the needy.

On Wednesday, January 18th at 10 AM the Shop will open for the spring season. In the event that Sherborn schools are closed because of snow the Shop will be closed.

## Spirituality on Stage-Exploring Religion and Ethics Through Contemporary Theatre

A Workshop with Kate Landis

Try something new this New Year! Join ministerial intern Kate Landis for **Spirituality on Stage-Exploring Religion and Ethics Through Contemporary Theatre**. This workshop is open to any adult or youth who wants to read and discuss fascinating, recently-published plays that deal with questions of religion and ethics. We will meet on Tuesdays from 7-9pm, January 10th through 31st, to discuss the play of the week. On February 7th we will stage a reading of our favorite play for family and friends. Feeling shy? You do not have to perform. Feeling busy? You don't have to come every week, and while I ask that you read the plays ahead of time, they are pretty short. E-mail ([intern@uuac-sherborn.org](mailto:intern@uuac-sherborn.org)) or call (508-653-1422) Kate if you are interested, so she can get you copies of the plays. Don't miss this great opportunity for exploration and fellowship!

### Power of the Quilt,

#### Project Quilt-a-thon

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
9am to 4 pm.**

#### **Alliance Hall**

The Power of the Quilt Project, sponsored by the UUAC Social Action committee and the Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild ([www.rnqg.org](http://www.rnqg.org)) will hold it's a quilt-a-thon on Monday, January 16th.

Everyone is invited to come help put together quilts that will be distributed to local chemotherapy centers. No experience is needed. There are many jobs involved in creating a comfort quilt from piecing the top; ironing; pinning; cutting fabric; sewing on labels; to helping fix and serve lunch to all the volunteers. The more volunteers we have, the more quilts we can distribute.

Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP [mcraigcohen@gmail.com](mailto:mcraigcohen@gmail.com), 508-545-1812

For more information about the Power of the Quilt Project please go to [www.uuac-sherborn.org/social/quilt](http://www.uuac-sherborn.org/social/quilt)



### Book Club Save-the-Dates

Friday, Jan. 6, Betty and Tom Glick, 132 Brook Street, Holliston, 429-2158. "In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin" by Erik Larson

Friday, Feb. 10, Caroline and Hu Cockrill, 349 Fiske Street, Holliston, 429-7549. "Room" by Emma Donoghue

Friday, March 2, Marie Caradonna and Peter Maaser, 7 Harrington Drive, Ashland, 881-5706. "The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger" by Kate Pickett and Richard

### Salvation Army Dinner February 22

We will be serving dinner at the Salvation Army in Framingham on **Wednesday, February 22**. Meatloaves (in disposable foil pans) may be brought to the church on the 22nd between 10 AM and 4 PM, and left in the kitchen.

We also need people to serve and clean up. Dinner is served promptly at 6 PM. Please let Joan Hunter

([jbh\\_11@verizon.net](mailto:jbh_11@verizon.net)) if you can help. This is a good outreach program for children (age 8 or over).

### Denominational Affairs

**- Jill Carroll**

The Fall issue of *UU World* had an interesting piece by Jane Ranney Rzepka entitled "How We Break the Rules". She listed 9 rules saying, "We don't believe in a lot of rules that our religious neighbors take for granted". Following is her "Break the Rules" list.

Rule # 1 - UUs don't have beliefs that one must adhere to.

Rule # 2 - UUism is a democratic religion with no hierarchy.

Rule # 3 - UUs do not have a set of rituals, but each person decides on their own what to practice.

Rule # 4 - UUs do not have to believe in God to be religious.

Rule # 5 - UUs do not believe that you must have faith in your beliefs. Instead, UUs rely on reason and experience to determine their beliefs with faith as an option.

Rule # 6 - UUs believe that "nothing - or everything - is inherently sacred", not just certain specified things.

Rule # 7 - To many, religious heresy is a bad thing. For UUs, heresy is often heroic. For example, we do not believe our lives are predetermined.

Rule # 8 - While some faiths believe religion is not fun, UU's beliefs cover all emotions including big doses of joy.

Rule # 9 - UUism is open to new ideas and is not stifling. Rev. Rzepka states, "Revelation is not sealed".

In late January please look for **UUSC POSTCARDS** that ask Senator John Kerry to bring to the US Senate a vote to ratify the **Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**. Return your signed postcard to the "Women's Rights" basket in Unity Hall by Sunday February 12th or mail it directly to Sen. Kerry's office to arrive before March 8th which is International Woman's Day. UUSC hopes to have 3,000 signed cards sent to Sen. Kerry. Thank you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Denominational Affairs Committee.

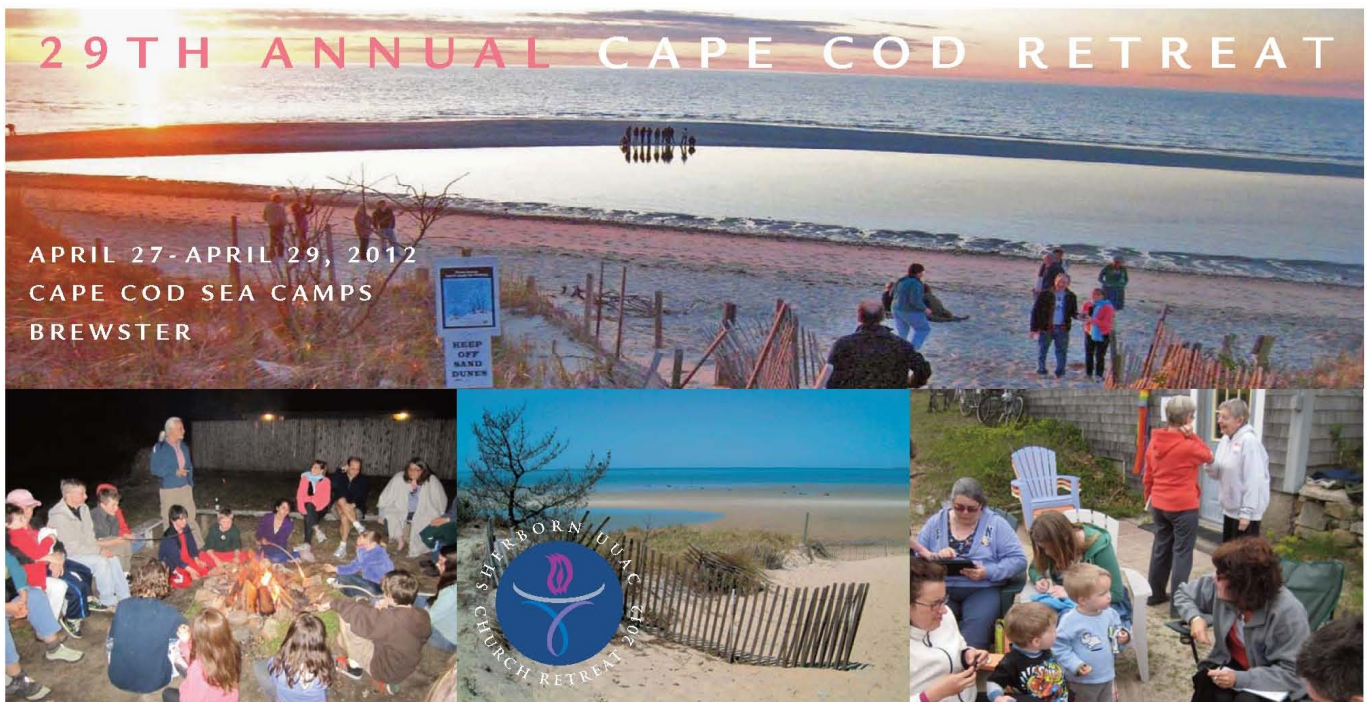
## An Intern's Journey by Kate Landis

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and renewing holiday season. As many of you know I am currently in the ministerial search process, or, as my Dad puts it, "looking for a minister gig." Hopefully I will be called to a congregation and begin ministry in the fall of 2012.

For the next few months I will be in the pre-candidating phase of the search. After search committees review the packets (a 100-page portfolio) of potential candidates, they select three people they want to meet in person. Each person is invited (with their partner or spouse) to visit with the search committee for a weekend, traveling on a Friday to the town where the church is located. On Friday evening the committee meets with the candidate informally, over dinner or at a small party at a search committee member's home. On Saturday morning the pre-candidate tours the church building. At this point in the process the applicant should not have any contact with congregants other than those on the search committee, so some effort is necessary to make sure no members are in or around the building.

After a building tour the committee has a several-hour, in depth interview with the applicant. Then everyone grabs a late lunch and a few committee members give the applicant a tour of the area surrounding the church. Applicants can meet with realtors, see local schools, visit landmarks, and generally get a quick orientation to what it would be like to live in this community. Finally the search committee and the applicant gather for dinner, and then the applicant heads back to the hotel to put the final touches on the next day's service.

On Sunday the applicant leads the worship service at a church near the congregation in search. Then the committee and the applicant gather for lunch, final questions and discussion, and goodbyes. It is a busy weekend! Jay and I would love your hopes and prayers as we go through the process of learning about communities and congregations, one of which will hopefully become home sweet home.



Every year, we escape to one of New England's most beautiful and restful beaches for the annual Cape Cod Retreat. Families, singles, young and old choose between walks on the beach, reflection, biking, reading, and tennis. There is no pre-established program during the retreat, simply a chance to become more mindful and re-connect with ourselves.

The retreat is an excellent opportunity to get to know other church members in a relaxed and beautiful setting. The camp staff cooks our meals for us so there is no pressure to do

anything other than what we want most to do. Enjoying Brewster in Bloom, visiting the craft fair, talking with friends, walking on the beach, or visiting the annual herring run help us reflect on the never ending cycles of our lives and allow us to get back in touch with ourselves.

This year, we will hold a clambake, early Saturday evening in the camp dining hall. This will be followed by our traditional campfire, complete with singing and S'Mores. We encourage you to put a priority on this special weekend.

If you are interested in the retreat, but you're

not into cabin camping, there are many more comfortable options available nearby. Some stay at Linger Longer Cottages and Apartments and others at Ocean Edge Resort. A good way to spend your first visit to the retreat is to select the Saturday program and spend the day.

**Free Clambake  
for Early Registration!**  
See details and costs on back.

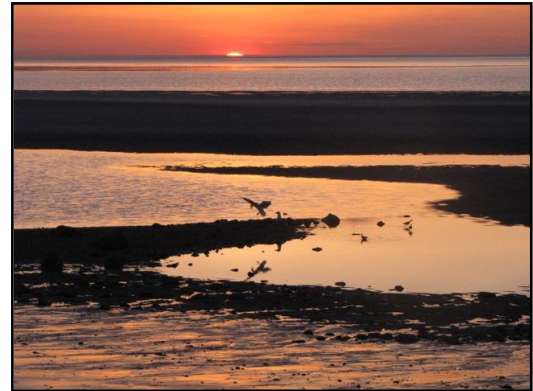
# UUAC Annual Cape Retreat

It's Almost Time to Register for the 2012 Retreat!  
 January is the official sign-up period for the retreat- Free clambakes for early registration!!

The 29th annual UUAC Retreat will take place on April 27-29 at the Cape Cod Sea Camps in Brewster. It is a great opportunity for rest and renewal along side one of the most beautiful beaches on the Cape. Mark your calendar now and watch the church website for details coming soon. Some of the highlights of the retreat:

- Walks on the beach
- Renewed and new friendships
- No cooking!
- Celebrating Brewster in Bloom and Craft Fair
- Cape Cod style clambake
- Traditional campfire
- Thank you!

Kathy



### RETREAT REGISTRATION AND COSTS:

**Free clambake for early registration and payment for the retreat! (Payment Due: Feb. 3, 2012)**  
**There is no charge for children under 5 to attend the retreat.**  
 Please select one of the options below:

- Weekend Overnight Program:** Lodging and 6 meals including Saturday night clambake:  
 \$160 per person before 2/3/12 (Early bird rate)  
 Children ages 5-10, HALF PRICE! (\$80)
- Weekend Day Program:** (for people at Linger Longer or other accommodations)  
 Six meals including clambake:  
 \$100 per person before 2/3/12  
 Children ages 5-10, HALF PRICE! (\$50)
- Saturday Program:** (for people who are making a day trip)  
 Lunch and Clambake  
 \$60 per person before 2/3/12  
 Children ages 5-10, (\$30)

**After 2/3/12, the rates are:**  
 \$190/person for weekend overnight program  
 \$130/person for weekend day program  
 \$90/person for Saturday program  
 Half-price for children 5-10 years of age

**Payment in full is due now in order to get the early bird rate and the free clambake. Please call or email with questions.**

**Scholarships:** If you would like to attend the retreat, but are concerned about the cost, please note that we do have an active scholarship fund for the retreat. We want you to attend! If you need financial assistance in order to attend, please call Kathy Greer or Nathan Detering to discuss a confidential scholarship.

**Fees are non-refundable after April 6, 2012**

Checks should be **made out to the UUAC** and sent to:  
**Kathy Greer, P.O. Box 1756, Duxbury MA 02331**  
**Tel. 781.934.7317 Cell 508.561.0764**  
**kgreerassoc@earthlink.net**

### SATURDAY CLAMBAKE:

The clambake includes choice of 1 lb. lobster or 10 oz steak plus clam chowder, steamers, mussels, new potatoes, cole slaw, corn on the cob, roasted chicken, linguica, macaroni and cheese, butter, bread, punch, coffee and tea.

### ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Heated Group Dorm at Camp
- Unheated Bunkroom Cabins at Camp
- Non-Camp Lodging (Motels, Inns, Cottages, etc.)

Names and Ages of Registrants:  
 (Adult ages not needed.)



Preferred email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**DON'T MISS THIS WONDERFUL EVENT. SIGN UP TODAY.**

### SCHEDULE:

Please indicate the number of people attending each meal.

Friday:  Pizza (6-9 pm )  
 Special pizza requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday:  
 Breakfast  Lunch  Clambake:  lobster  
 Sunday:  steak  
 Breakfast  Lunch  neither

**Unitarian Universalist Area Church  
at First Parish in Sherborn**

11 Washington Street, P.O. Box 158  
Sherborn, Massachusetts 01770-0158  
(508) 653-1422  
<http://www.uuac-sherborn.org>

**Worship Service: Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.**  
Crossroads, the newsletter of the UUAC, is mailed to all members and pledging friends via electronic mail. The newsletter may be viewed at the church website. Printed copies can be picked up at church.

**Crossroads Listing Policy**

Submissions to Crossroads are always welcome and may be e-mailed to [uuac@uuac-sherborn.org](mailto:uuac@uuac-sherborn.org) (word format preferred); or typed/legibly handwritten copy may be dropped off in the Church Office by noon on the deadline date.

We are happy to publish any announcements about UUAC, UU-sponsored events and other non-profit activities of interest to the community. We are sorry we cannot list for-profit announcements.

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**UUAC STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

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