



## First Church in Belmont, Unitarian Universalist Summer 2017 — Lay-Led Services

All services will be held at 9:30 a.m. (June 25 at 9:45 a.m.) in the Parish Hall.  
Supervised childcare is provided.

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### June 18 — Sam James

#### *What Refugees Are Teaching Us*

Three teams of 8 volunteers each from First Church are volunteering with families from Syria, Somalia, and the Congo in Lowell. We are learning as much from the families as we are giving in terms of support and transition into the United States. When we choose to be neighbors, we learn a lot from each other. This service will align some of our UU Seven Principles with our involvement with the families. Lucy Pullen, Steve Bauer, and Priscilla Cobb will discuss their experiences and Sam James will highlight the Welcome Team program. Join us for a discussion about refugee resettlement and its impact on us.

### June 25— Worship Committee — different starting time: 9:45 a.m.

#### *Live Streaming GA 2017 Sunday Morning Worship*

Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. This powerful, communal worship experience will take place at the New Orleans Convention Center.

Rev. Mara Dowdall will lead the worship in 2017. She is Senior Minister of the First UU Society of Burlington, Vermont. Previously, she served congregations in Montpelier, Vermont and the Boston area, and spent a year as the UUA's Interim Youth Ministry Director. A Philadelphia native, life-long Unitarian Universalist, and graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Mara worked in national politics before her call to ministry. She lives in Burlington with her husband, Ben, and their two young sons.

### July 2 — Richard Waring & Friends

#### *Leaning on Words & Song — Art as Communion*

Poetry lends a certain music, and music a certain poetry to our lives. In fact, they are sister arts, as if the eye and ear were related, become siblings. In ancient Greece, the poet or musician was the undisputed leader, the one who was in the broadest and deepest sense the educator of the people. The word lyric comes from the Greek lyra, or "musical instrument." Greeks spoke of lyrics as "poetry to be sung." Join us for poems and songs that show glimpses of life's amusements and sorrows, finding our common feeling and sense of place in these healing art forms.

### July 9 — TBA

### July 16 — Edwin Taylor

#### *Living On The Edge*

Each of us exists only as the result of an endless chain of almost impossible chances. Statistically, our future does not exist. We play the odds, but live only in the present instant.

### July 23 — Rob Kinslow

#### *Finding the Center*

What is at your very core? Where are you now in relation to your past, and what does it mean for your future? Ancient scribes, including writers of the Hebrew Bible who were often transcribing an oral tradition, used a literary pattern of storytelling called chiasm to help their mostly illiterate listeners follow along. In chiasm structure, the narrative's openings and closings share a kind of symmetry, centered around the story's very core. Citing examples both ancient and modern, guest speaker Rob Kinslow will lead us in applying this structure to the stories of our own lives to help us more clearly appreciate our own centers and our own symmetries, and what this knowledge might mean for our own next chapters.

### July 30 — Jon Svetkey + Heather Quay

#### *A Hymnal Hootenanny*

### August 6 — Devon Becket

#### *The Camino Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela*

Pilgrimage is an ancient tradition that takes one out of the rhythms of normal life into a different landscape and sense of time, following the old paths and discovering new things about oneself on the journey. From the Tiffany stained-glass window in our sanctuary, to the Camino in Spain, we will consider the pilgrim's journey.

### August 13, 20, and 27 — TBA

### September 3 — Jody Renouf and Mark Rosenstein

#### *Blessing of the Animals*

We will celebrate and reflect together on our walk through life with pets by our side. Bring your animal companion for a blessing outside (weather permitting), or a photo of your family pets if you prefer, for shared blessing and reflection.