



The First Religious Society
Unitarian Universalist presents:

“My Position as an Abolitionist They Could Not Bear”: The Brief Newburyport Ministry of Thomas Wentworth Higginson



**Sunday, January 29, 10:30am
worship service followed by
Q&A at 11:30, in person or
attend on YouTube
26 Pleasant St, Newburyport**



Guest speaker is Dr. Sandra Harbert Petrulionis, Distinguished Professor of English and American Studies at Pennsylvania State University in Altoona. Her books include *To Set This World Right: The Antislavery Movement in Thoreau's Concord*, *Thoreau in His Own Time*, and *The Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism*. She is currently working on a biography of author, reformer, and editor Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and, with Noelle A. Baker, is editing *The Almanacks of Mary Moody Emerson: A Scholarly Digital Edition*.

In September 1847, recent divinity school graduate Thomas Wentworth Higginson, age 24, accepted the pulpit at the First Religious Society in Newburyport, Massachusetts. It was his first pastorate, he was a newlywed, and his liberal politics were not yet radical. But by the time he resigned his ministry there exactly two years later, his antislavery sentiments had become intolerable to many in the congregation. Drawing largely on Higginson's unpublished correspondence, this talk will present the evolution of Higginson's short time at the Newburyport FRS.

For more information:

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