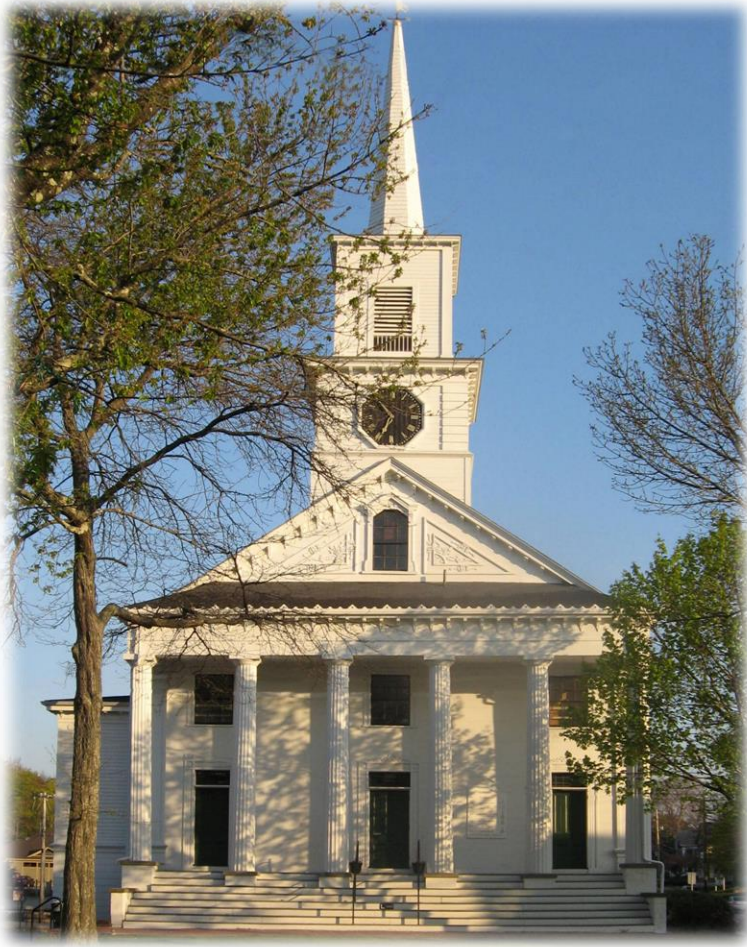


First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield,
MA

(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org



March 2018 Newsletter

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

Sally and I are sending out St. Patrick's Day cards this year. Somehow "Season's Greetings" did not quite happen. Our granddaughter will be walking before we get her five-months picture out to friends and relatives.

Some good news – the lemonade-from-lemons-aspect – may be that we get to especially look forward to Mar. 17. That is a Saturday and it is St. Patrick's Day. It has also been most helpfully

step-danced this year into a First Parish special event, the Kick-off Cook-off. We are looking forward to eating, drinking (moderately, of course), listening to music and generally festivating in the Vestry, starting at 6:00 p.m.

I hope you are planning to be there. It is going to be very good fun for all.

The Cook-off piece is the "Irish" chili being prepared by each of our FPUU Committees, which will be only nominally Irish but is sure to be

delicious in every variety. The competition for “best” is going to be hot.

The Kick-off piece is how the Annual Fund Drive, which begins the next day on Sunday, Mar. 18, gets going in the right order. First Parish people come first. Each of you is who we are and why we are. Having fun together is a reminder we go through this life with other people. To choose them is a gift. To share with them is a joy. To count on them is a strength that builds the more we use it.

“Building On Our Strengths” is the theme for this year’s Fund Drive. That is exactly what you are doing. None of your strengths is more important than the pleasure of your own company.

It unlocks the others – your skill, your dedication, your vision, your energy and your resilience. The world seems in more disarray and even danger in these days than any of us can likely remember. The determination that there be some place that is sensible and humane, that it upholds a network of mutuality for all – this is a radical vision of good. It is vital for our lives and for the larger community that must ultimately be rebuilt one relationship at a time.

“Building” First Parish is very good work.

Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – March 4

“Heaven or Whatever”

Rev. David W. Chandler

Fewer and fewer Americans – of any religious persuasion, or none – believe in any specific afterlife. About time people wised up, isn’t it? On the other hand, in what we choose not to believe, we reveal a great deal about who we really are. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – March 11

“#WhyFPUU?”

Worship and Music Committee

Our annual Special Service for members and friends to share what they especially enjoy about the First Parish community. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – March 18

“The Sermon on the Amount”

Rev. David W. Chandler

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE SUNDAY will kick off our campaign to support First Parish over the coming fiscal year. “Building On Our Strengths” is this year’s theme. Rev. David shares thoughts on why saying yes is what makes it all possible. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

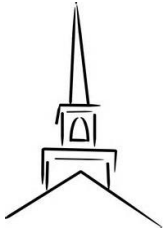
Sunday – March 25

“It’s a Spring Thing!”

Religious Exploration

The vernal equinox is March 20, which makes it quite official. No guarantees on the weather, of course, but our RE kids are ready to go. They invite you to share this Special Service with them. Join us to celebrate all the possibilities of the brand-new season.

From the Worship and Music Committee



Coming March 11: #WhyFPUU? The Worship and Music Committee welcomes you to one of our favorite annual services on Sunday, March 11, during which we get to hear from members in their own words about what brought them -- and keeps them coming back -- to First Parish. This year we are thrilled to have a fantastic lineup of four wonderful speakers: Eve Potts, Evan Springer, David Russell, and Martha Holt. Please join us for this special service to hear their stories and reflections on "Why I Am At First Parish".

Notes from the Executive Board



Dear Friends:

Since I last wrote to you, we have had two Board meetings. We have started on a draft budget for the next fiscal year; this work will continue through every meeting until the annual meeting. **The date for the annual meeting will be May 20.** Please make a note of it.

Thanks to the efforts of Rich Mastronardi, Board liaison to Buildings and Grounds, a new committee structure has been put in place, and Eve Potts has volunteered to serve as coordinator and chair. Thanks to all who agreed to serve on the committee, and special thanks to Eve and Rich!

The Board has approved a request by a local Boy Scout, whose Eagle Scout project is to make historic sites in Medfield QR accessible. He asked for permission to mount a QR scan code on the front of our church, to allow people to view the church's history on their phones. He will be working with David Temple, president of the Medfield Historical Society, to develop a narrative about our history. A prototype plaque (yet to be

approved by the town) looks like this:



The Board has also been discussing various building security issues. We decided that the locks on both the vestry and U-House doors will be changed and new keys issued, and the code in the vestry key box will be changed periodically. Announcement in all our messaging venues will be made prior to the actual changeover, and individuals who have or need keys should tell Sandra that they need a replacement. Keep your eyes peeled for news on this topic!

You should have received an invitation to attend the "Annual Fund Drive Kick-off Cook-off" on Saturday, March 17th, starting at 6 p.m. The Millis-Berfield Band, wildly applauded at its recent Espresso Yourself coffeehouse performance, will return to entertain us, and you can vote for the best chili made by our FPUU committees! So please put this date on your calendar as well.

Things are happening at First Parish! See you in church.

Fritz

2018-19 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

I can do things you cannot; you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things. - Mother Teresa

"BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS"

Dear Members and Friends:

We are pleased to announce the theme of our Annual Fund Drive, which we believe reflects the promise and possibility of this vital time in the life of our First Parish Community. Our strengths are apparent in many ways:

- Our Ministerial Search Committee is diligently seeking our next settled minister and hopes to present a Candidate this spring for a Vote to Call by the Members;
- We enrolled five new Members in 2017, and our Annual Fund Drive last year drew 100% pledging participation by the households active in our congregation;
- Our historic Sanctuary gained a new digital sound system and wireless control board – and up-to-date hearing assistance will be installed later this spring;
- Religious Exploration conducted an energetic "Candyland" Solstice service Dec. 17 in our Sanctuary, and is enthusiastically planning a Mar. 25 Spring Celebration service;
- Our community outreach will expand this spring with a monthly luncheon in the Vestry for LGBT older adults, in partnership with a regional non-profit social service agency;
- We continue to enjoy excellent music, interesting Sunday and special worship services, youth activities, energetic committees, Espresso Yourself, inclusive pastoral care and a vibrant community that has recommitted to its characteristically optimistic fellowship.

We hope you reflect on how we as a First Parish family bolster one another and will build upon these strengths and many others as we look ahead to the coming year. Please celebrate with us on Saturday, Mar.17 at the "Kick-off Cook-off" in the Vestry. Food by our committees, music by the Millis-Berfield Band and the fun for all ages begins at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge.

Please plan to join us for the Annual Fund Drive Sunday Service the next day, Mar. 18. We will begin the formal pledging process at that time. Your participation is vital. Our Members and Friends take responsibility for all the expenditures necessary for First Parish to grow and thrive.

Our traditional Commitment Sunday Service will be April 15, when we will submit our pledge cards and, by coming forward in community, demonstrate and renew our shared commitment to First Parish, to each other, and to the principles that bind us and inspire us.

You are invited, as always, to talk to us about any aspect of the Annual Fund Drive. We will be providing more information and your canvasser will be able to answer questions. The Executive Board will also keep you up to date on the development of the proposed Budget for 2018-2019.

Kind Regards,

Annual Fund Drive Committee: Mary Corthell, Chris Flaherty, Marshall Sugarman

2018-19 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

*By working together, pooling our resources and building on our strengths,
we can accomplish great things. – Ronald Reagan*

“HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?”

Dear Members and Friends:

Each of us decides how much our household can support our church over the coming year. Financial support in any amount from every Member and Friend of First Parish is vital. Our congregation is entirely responsible for the church's expenses. Here is a pledge guideline:

Ways to Determine Your Pledge:

Your pledge in any amount is greatly appreciated. The UUA Fair Share Guide is a helpful resource for thinking about what your pledge amount is appropriate for you. The financial commitment levels in the Guide are suggestions that start at 2% of adjusted income, with giving levels rising with capacity. “Adjusted income” is your household income after paying taxes and medical expenses and items like tuition and elder or dependent care expenses.

- **Supporter:** The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my income and rises to 6% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Sustainer:** The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation. My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my income and rises to 7% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Visionary:** My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my income and rises to 9% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Transformer:** I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my income.

We believe that if all of us pledged a minimum of 2% of our adjusted household income the Executive Board would be able to present at the Annual Meeting a balanced Church Budget for 2018-2019. Last year (for the 2017-2018 Budget), the Pledge Total was \$105,000 from 52 households. The average pledge was \$2,020. A 15% increase in the pledge average this year would raise about \$115,000, which would bring us very close to balance. Our Budget is stable, but we have been managing modest but persistent deficits in operations for some years. It is important to escape that cycle without damaging cuts to our programs, services and staff. We can do it!

Kind Regards,

Annual Fund Drive Committee: Mary Corthell, Chris Flaherty, Marshall Sugarman

Ministerial Search Committee Update



Hello again from your Ministerial Search Committee! As the ministerial search process rolls along, your seven-member team is actively engaged.

Over the next few months, we may be less visible at FPUU due to our search activities. We are working well together, and our work is progressing positively. We have entered into a period of high confidentiality related to the number and/or nature of candidates and our related deliberations. We appreciate your continued support and your patience.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shirley Riga or Karen Wians, co-chairs of the MSC:

shirley_riga@yahoo.com

wianskbad@verizon.net





**QUESTION: What are you doing on March 17th at 6:00 pm?
ANSWER: Coming to the FPUU "Annual Fund Drive
Kick-off Cook-off" Of Course!**



**Enjoy traditional and not-so-traditional Irish Fare & Beverages
Vote for the Best Chili made by our FPUU Committees!
Special Guests: The Millis-Berfield Band**

**SO, YOUNGSTERS AND ADULTS,
GET YOUR GREEN ON
AND "STEPDANCE" ON OVER!**

**CASH
BAR**

**6:00 pm Saturday, March 17th
First Parish Medfield Vestry
26 North Street**

**RSVP by March 10th to 508-406-8689 or
membership@firstparishmedfield.org
"Building on Our Strengths", Co-Hosted by
the Annual Fund Drive and Membership Committees**



Our Annual Potluck Passover Seder

Will be held on
Friday, March 30th in the Vestry
Starting at 6:00 PM
All are invited to this family gathering



Passover is the celebration of the liberation of the Israelites from their slavery in the time of the Pharaohs, but for us it is much more than that. We celebrate it also as a celebration of the search for liberation for all people at all times.

A 'seder' is a telling of that story – you know, the one from the Bible, the one from movies – but with a UU flavor. We will all take turns reading parts, and then we will eat.

In years past we have had as many as 40 people together, and sometimes as few as 10 – but all are welcome to share food, read an old story, and maybe even sing a few songs.

If you would like to come, please drop us a note and tell us what you would bring (so we don't get five salads and no main courses). One note –there are some traditional foods which fit in to a Passover meal. Leavened products including certain grain-based foods like bread and pasta do not. If in doubt, ask us or do a search on line.

Dan Bibel
Louise Rachin
Becca Kornet
Faye Kalmbach

Come Join the Larger Circle Band

FPUU has a wonderful international folk dance band called The Larger Circle. We got the name from a poem by Wendell Berry (see below). We



play music from Russia, Israel, Ireland, France, Bulgaria, Poland, Spain, Mexico, and many other countries. We have performed at First Parish for services and at Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse. In April, we are branching out to other venues. We get dance callers to help teach the audience to dance to our music. Sometimes we play silly things, most times we play lively things, and sometimes we play such beautiful haunting tunes, we are all in tears at the end. Sometimes someone from the band sings.

We currently have a violin, accordion, guitar, piano, flute/piccolo, mandolin, trumpet, and

percussion. We are looking for other instruments like clarinet or saxophone or viola.

We rehearse most Monday evenings 7:30-9pm. We do 2-3 performances a year.

We have lots of fun, and we hope you'll think about joining us.

thea

The Larger Circle by Wendell Berry

We clasp the hands of those that go before us.
And the hands of those who come after us.
We enter the little circle of each other's arms
And the larger circle of lovers,
Whose hands are joined in a dance
And the larger circle of all creatures
Passing in and out of life
Who move also in a dance
To a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it
Except in fragments.



Poetry Sunday – April 8

Poetry Sunday Haiku
Poetry and prose
A tradition continues
Poetry Sunday

Sunday, April 8. Please contact Bill Wians

SAVE THE DATE!!!



**FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD
SMALL SUPPERS**

Hosted in the Homes of First Parish Members
the Evening of Saturday April 7, 2018

Invitation to follow.

In the meantime, mark your calendar!

**"Building on Our Strengths"
Annual Fund Drive 2018-2019**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

YARD SALE ORGANIZER

There are lots of helpers, but we need someone to be in charge of organizing and advertising.



*Do you like FP's annual YARD SALE?
Would you like to see it again this year?
Please consider volunteering as LEAD ORGANIZER!*

Interested?
Contact Katrin at
ktrn.fischer@gmail.com.



EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, March 31st from 7:00-9:00 PM

The Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse is an opportunity for spoken word artists to share their poetry, stories, and songs. It is held the last Saturday of every month at 7pm at First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Medfield, MA. Each month has a different theme

Open mic readers have 5 minutes to share. Original or non-original poetry, stories, performance art, music or songs welcome. Sticking to theme encouraged. Teens and adults welcome. Refreshments from Starbucks are served. Medfield TV films event and posts to You-tube. \$5 suggested donation (\$3 students).



Coffee Hour Hosts needed for March



Please see the sign-up sheet in the vestry or contact Ann Cunningham if you are interested in hosting open coffee hours.

March 4 – Mary Corthell

March 11 - Open

March 18 – Katrin Fischer & Fritz Fleischmann

March 25 – Open

Notes from the Church Office:

Please remember the following deadlines:



Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. **This month it is March 18th**

Order of Service: Wednesdays by 5:00 pm.

Church Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange



If you are using Amazon.com, you can help support First Parish! To order on Amazon, please use this link: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/firstparisuuch01> First Parish will receive about 5% of what you order and will not cost you anything!!! (One important note - if you had items in your Amazon 'shopping basket' before using this link, First Parish won't get the benefit of your shopping. Only items placed in the shopping basket AFTER clicking the above link help)

Equal Exchange only sells "Fair Trade" products - by dealing directly with small farmers and co-ops, they insure that the growers and producers get a fair market price for their products - and you get some of the best produce at a reasonable price. First Parish adds 15% to the Equal Exchange price, so your purchase also helps to support the work of the church. For information on ordering from Equal Exchange, click on this link:

<http://www.firstparishmedfield.org/cms/component/content/article/45-amazon/76-ee>



Food Cupboard Donations Needed

Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex. The following are the Medfield Food Cupboard current needs:

Kid Friendly Cereal
Juice-Large and Boxes
PB
Jelly/Jam
Canned Fruit

Bags of Rice
Tuna (in water is preferred)
Cookies/Crackers
Pasta Sauce

FPUU Calendar of Events for March

Monday, March 5	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/U-House Medfield Historical Society/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, March 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 11	Pledge Drive Canvasser Training/11:30 am/Vestry Daylight Savings Begins at 2:00 am
Monday, March 12	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, March 13	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:30 pm
Saturday, March 17	New Life Furniture Bank Volunteer Day Kickoff Cookoff/6:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, March 18	Medfield Huddle/4:30 pm/Vestry Newsletter Deadline
Monday, March 19	Fund Drive Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Offsite The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, March 22	RE Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/Vestry Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Monday, March 26	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, March 27	Membership Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Friday, March 30	Annual Passover Seder/Vestry
Saturday, March 31	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry

