



From the Minister

Easter Faith, and the Committee on Ministry

Dear FPUU folks,

I can't believe it is already May! Nine months have flown by since I began ministry with you.

I want to share with you one of my favorite short poems (by e.e. Cummings) – it's particularly right for Easter time:

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

*---i thank You God for everything which is natural
which is infinite which is yes!*

I invite you to think about what in your life, what in our life as a faith community even, may be ready for a surprising transformation or rebirth. Look for a dead space, a hole, and wonder. Keep your eyes open and your senses about you, on the look out for a "Yes!" hovering somewhere, maybe even

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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MAY 2014
NEWSLETTER

close by. This is the Easter faith, that no matter how fearful, how painful the time, there is a "Yes!" hovering somewhere for you. And if you cannot hold this faith yourself, let your faith community hold it for you.

On a completely different and much more mundane topic, I want to let you know about a new committee that will be established shortly. It is called the Committee on Ministry, and most UU churches have them nowadays.

The Committee on Ministry will serve the overall health and well-being of the church and strengthen the quality of the ministry (i.e. the work we do together) within the congregation by

1. exploring any concerns and challenges within the minister/congregation relationship,
2. examining the various ministries (outreach, fellowship, pastoral care, worship, etc.) of the church, looking at both ministerial and congregational roles in these shared ministries, and
3. assisting the minister in developing plans for professional development, sabbaticals, etc.

As you can see, the COM doesn't make church policy like the Executive Board does. Neither is it the minister's advocacy group. Rather, the COM advises, strategizes, examines and makes recommendations related to the health of the ministries of the church.

The Committee on Ministry works well when it consists of members who have the trust and confidence of the congregation because they have:

1. commitment to the ministry and mission of the church *as a whole*
2. comfort dealing with conflict
3. a big picture perspective

4. ability to leave personal biases at the door
5. ability to work in a confidential but not secretive manner
6. personal integrity
7. compassion
8. honesty
9. good people skills
10. creativity
11. institutional savvy

Because the primary role of the Committee on Ministry is to serve the overall health of the congregation, when conflict appears the Committee on Ministry is a natural body to assist in managing that.

In November, the Executive Board approved the Transition Team's recommendation that the COM be made up of three people (in addition to the minister) who will serve staggered terms; the Transition Team, the Executive Board and the minister will each select one person from a slate of candidates screened by the minister and the Transition Team. There is some conversation now about possibly expanding the size of the COM, but regardless, the goal is the same: a small group of highly regarded, institutionally knowledgeable, committed congregants. I am excited to start working with them.

And we once we have our COM in place we can then heartily thank the Transition Team, which was the Search Committee for two years, for all that they have given this church, and they can finally be finished with their ministerial search and settlement service to you!

Many blessings,

Rev. Meg

From the Director of Religious Education



How and what do we worship?

I recently participated in a workshop for religious educators on "worship for all ages," how to craft worship services for different ages and also for multigenerational groups.

The workshop began by asking us how we define "worship," and what experiences each of us had had of worship in our life. The word "worship," by the way, originally meant "to give worth to" or "to see as worthy." So we can think about worship services as a way for a community to hold up what it values.

In children's worship at First Parish, here's what we've been doing this year:

First, we light our chalice, the symbol of our faith, and we affirm who we are as Unitarian Universalists, in a way that even our youngest worshippers can understand. Together we say "We are UU's. We are the church of the open mind, the loving heart, and the hands that serve." (There are also movements that go along with these words, as worship ideally involves our bodies as well as our minds and spirits!)

We use a gong to quiet our minds and bodies. One person rings the gong, and we listen in stillness (or relative stillness) until

we can't hear its sound anymore. Then we invite our joys and sorrows. In the main worship service, we light candles for our joys and sorrows, but in children's worship, we put pebbles in a bowl of water. We go around the circle (sometimes more than once) and add as many pebbles as we want, and share whatever is in our hearts or on our minds, because this is something we value and think is worth our attention.

In the past month or two, we've tried to sing a song during every children's worship, and that's for a couple of different purposes. One, music engages us in a different way than spoken words do. For some people, worship isn't worship without music! Two, it's been a way for some of our kids to teach us songs they know. Our very own Jackson Razza introduced us to "Teaching Peace," by Red Grammer, which you heard the kids sing during our winter solstice service if you were there, and we've practiced it more since then.

Frequently there's either a story or an activity that illustrates the theme of the week, and helps us wonder our way into the ideas or the values. Wondering and learning together is something we very much value too.

Usually we try to have some kind of closing before everyone runs out the door to get back to the vestry for snacks... We're still working on that part.

It'd be interesting to ask your kids what part of children's worship (or, for that matter, what part of the main worship) they like best and why. And you can think

about it for yourself too: why do you come to worship? What does it nourish in you?

Of course, worship doesn't just take place in church. As 13th century Persian poet Rumi tells us, "There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground." There are hundreds of opportunities to worship, in every day, in every place. Children are natural worshippers: rainbow spotters, butterfly followers, stargazers. They are great at "Wow!"

They are also great at "Aww." They perceive the world's everyday sadness's and injustices and feel them deeply: hurt animals and hungry people and litter and pollution. These are worship-worthy too.

Think about the different things you do in a day. What do those things say about what you value or worship? What do you give your time and attention and energy to? (I don't know about you, but my kids seem to worship electronically...)

May you find in each day
some quiet and some cacophony,
some solitude and some company,
some sadness and some celebration,
some comfort and some challenge.
May each of our lives be worshipful,
from our first bells ringing to our last
postlude.

--Alison Streit Baron

Coming of Age Program



At a recent "M&M" activity in our Coming of Age program, one of our young people commented that we broke their brain. When I followed up a week later, the brain in question had healed and was taking on the shape of a pretzel. For me, that's a success story! Our "M's" (mentees) and "M's" (mentors) have been questioning and working on articulating the current convictions of our young people. One of the attractions for some of us in our faith is the lack of dogma, which is a difficult concept in Coming of Age. Faith is fluid, and brains become pretzel shaped. Our Coming of Age program for 9th and 10th graders at First Parish follows a year of Our Whole Lives, a faith based sexuality curriculum. Although the eight participants have been learning together for years (the newest addition joined the group in 4th grade!), the majority of bonding comes in OWL, which sets the venue for the respectful sharing and questioning that happens in COA. Guided by mentors, many of the Coming of Age credos will be presented at our service June 1. Our group consists of Adam (mentored by Chris Conley), Alice (Renee Lloyd), Evan (Bill Wians), Henry (David Maxson), Jack (Jeff Lloyd), Lizzie (Renee Lloyd), Nate (Dan Bibel), and Will (Chris Flaherty).

The Installation Service for Reverend Meg Soens March 30th, 2014



(Photos by
Jack Kornet &
Fred Bunger)





**Please Join the FPUU Green Sanctuary
Committee for A "Meat Lite" Pot Luck
Saturday, May 3rd, 6:00 pm, Vestry**



Bring Your Favorite Meat Lite or Vegetarian Dish to Share

This potluck theme is inspired by the fact that one of the single best things we can do to lower our personal carbon footprint is to eat less meat. Gather together to share recipes that use more vegetables and alternative proteins.

PROJECT BREAD WALK FOR HUNGER

SUNDAY MAY 4, 2014

Please join Team First Parish to help alleviate hunger in Massachusetts. We will gather in front of the State House and start walking at 8:00 am.

Walk guides, registration forms and pledge sheets are available on-line at www.projectbread.org.

You may also mail a donation using the form below.



See you at the State House!

Louise Rachin

Team First Parish Walk Coordinator

508-528-8456

lrachin@comcast.net

Yes, Team First Parish can count on my support! Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

_____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Please return your contribution along with this form to Louise Rachin, 11 King Philip Trail, Norfolk, MA 02056

Medfield Garden Club Annual Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17th from 9-12

First Parish UU Medfield

26 North Street



*Proceeds from this sale help the Garden Club maintain nearly
twenty roadside gardens all around Medfield.*

New Vendors to join the Medfield Farmers' Market



The Medfield Farmers' Market will return to the grounds of the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church for a 4th season on **Thursday, June 5th from 2:00 to 6:30 pm and continue each Thursday through September 25th.**

Ward's Berry Farm, Garden Farms and Jordan Brothers Seafood will all be returning to the market this season. We are excited to announce that Tabors Closet, Amir's Natural Foods and Annie's Just Desserts will also be joining the market this season.

This is what you can expect to find at the market this season so far:

- *Fresh fruit and vegetables
- *Fresh Seafood
- *Gourmet Jams, Jellies and Relishes
- *All-natural Mediterranean and Middle Eastern foods
- *Hand Made dog collars
- *Cakes and other desserts, including Gluten Free products!

Other vendor's applications are being reviewed and we will be adding additional vendors soon.

Like us on Facebook! We will be updating information there all season long. For more information about the farmers' market, please contact Eve Potts (evempotts@gmail.com.)

Social Action: UU Mass Action ADVOCACY DAY

The following poster invites you to put your faith and values into action on Tuesday, May 13th. Plan to attend the 9th Annual UU Advocacy Day, sponsored by UU Mass Action, at the Arlington Street Church and the State House. This year we will be delivering wedding cupcakes to each of Massachusetts' 200 Senators and Representatives in boxes which say: "Thank You for 10 Years of Marriage Equality! Now it's time to raise the minimum wage, reform drug sentencing, and change our immigration policies." Register and get info at www.uumassaction.org/advocacyday

First Parish has sent several members each year to Advocacy Day. It is a very rewarding event - engaging with your state Representative and Senator to advocate for important issues. Please contact me with any questions.

Margaret Rolph
merolph@verizon.net
508-668-1392

Please post



UU ADVOCACY DAY! & Acts of Faith Breakfast



**9th Annual, sponsored by UU Mass Action
at Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St.**

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Schedule:

9:30 -10:30 - Acts of Faith Breakfast with David Wilson, plaintiff in the 2004 marriage equality case.

10:30 - Welcome to Advocacy Day. Worship.

11 - 1 - Speaker for each issue; lunch; walk over to the Mass State House.

1 - 1:30 - We are celebrating 10 years of same-sex marriage in MA! Help deliver slices of wedding cake to every Senator and Representative at the State House.

1:30 - 3 - In teams, visit legislators at the State House. Debrief.



Issues

- Raising the minimum wage
- Jobs Not Jails campaign
- Immigration reform



Registration required at www.uumassaction.org/advocacyday



Among Ourselves

June Barrier, member since October 18, 1959 moved to Kennebunk, Maine around 1996. She called the office early this month and wanted to let all her First Parish friends know that they have been in her thoughts. June can be reached at PO Box 66, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

Food Cupboard Needs

The Medfield Food Cupboard has requested the following from our church for the month of May:

**DONATE
FOOD
HERE**



Juice - bottled or boxes
Tall kitchen garbage bags
Condiments
Cereal
Raisins
Crackers

Please double check your food items to ensure that they are undented, unopened, and unexpired. Thanks for your efforts. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

Special thanks to Evan Springer who is the coordinator for our church this year.



Supporting
FPUU through

Amazon.com
& Equal Exchange

There are many ways to support First Parish - becoming a member is one, volunteering is another. But you can also help by buying things through Amazon.com or by getting your coffees, teas, and chocolates through Equal Exchange. Getting the things that you would ordinarily order anyway, but using the links available on our website will let you do your part in supporting the work of this congregation, helping our social action agenda, and preserving our historic Meeting House.

Just go to www.firstparishmedfield.org and click on the link at the bottom of any page! It's easy!



Notes from the Church Office:

Sandra will be out of the office from May 13th until May 29th.



Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month.

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

FPUU Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 1	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, May 3	Green Sanctuary Potluck/6:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, May 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, May 11	Mother's Day
Tuesday, May 13	Lunch Bunch/12:00 pm/Church Offices
	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Thursday, May 15	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, May 17	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day/Walpole
	Medfield Garden Club Spring Sale/Vestry
Sunday, May 18	Chalice Circle/4-5:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, May 25	Newsletter Deadline
Monday, May 26	Memorial Day/Church Offices Closed

For bookings of events or meetings in the Sanctuary, Vestry or U-House, please check availability and then contact the church office at admin@firstparishmedfield.org