



First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield, MA
(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org



*“Green was the silence, wet was the light,
the month of June trembled like a butterfly.”*
– Pablo Neruda, 100 Love Sonnets

June Newsletter 2015

From the Minister

Dear FPUU friends,

The 2014-2015 church year is coming to a close – can you believe it? Religious Education Appreciation Sunday is June 7; this is also the date

of the Annual Meeting, when you will vote on the budget and other business of the church. Our last regular Sunday worship service in the sanctuary will be Flower Communion on June 21. After that, there will be lay-led services in the vestry through most of the summer – though we will need some additional volunteers for those. I will resume leading worship at our Ingathering service, on the

first Sunday after Labor Day. In July and August I will be away from the office on study leave and then vacation. (In the case of serious pastoral emergencies, though, I will be available.)

If there is a topic that especially concerns or interests you, perhaps you'd like to build a simple and very informal summer worship service around it. Please get in touch with Susan Stromgren (susanstromgren@gmail.com), or sign up for a Sunday directly at <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/716763> if you are willing to give this a try. Any time before the end of June I'd be happy to coach or otherwise help anyone who is considering leading a service. And do try them out: they are often very creative! There is no childcare, however.

This year has been wonderful. We started to get into a new rhythm in our second year together, and we've welcomed many new people at our services. This is good!

Before things slow down for the summer, I want to thank some of the many people who have given so much to this church this year, including:

Margaret Rolph, for her second year chairing the Executive Board, and Fritz Fleischmann, for serving as vice-chair. Margaret and Fritz have put many, many hours into leading a caring, responsible and diligent Executive Board during a year that saw a number of challenges.

Duncan Glover, for leading our annual fund drive, and Marshall Sugarman, Chris Flaherty, Mary Corthell and Louise Rachin for their able work on task that as well.

Kristen d'Abate, for assuming the chairman's role on the Membership committee.

Fred Bunger, Eve Potts and David Maxson, who worked as the tiny but indomitable Buildings and

Grounds Committee. A special thanks to Fred for organizing our Spruce-Up the U House day.

Becca Kornet, for chairing the Worship and Music Committee, and also helping Eva Kendrick so much with the two musical fundraisers.

Fritz Fleischmann, who led the new Green Sanctuary Committee in another active, effective year for our church and community.

Cissy Hull-Allen, who led the Religious Education Committee as new high school and middle school programs were begun and flourished, and the elementary aged group expanded significantly.

Kay Bennett, for chairing, and Fred Bunger, Terry Ballantyne, and David Temple for joining the new Committee on Shared Ministry.

Eve Potts and Alison Galley, who have been working on the Farmer's Market that starts up again soon.

Julie DeSorgher, Jen Bartle and Bill Wians, who did a wonderful job of finding folks to fill the Board vacancies.

Sandra Andreassi, for another year of caring and careful administration, attention to detail and connecting the dots for us.

Eva Kendrick for her leadership of the choir, her Sunday musicianship, and her work putting on two fabulous musical events as fundraisers – especially "The Operator", the outstanding musical that she composed and produced here.

And Alison Streit Baron: we are very sorry to lose you, Alison, you have been such a wonderful director of religious education, a marvelous story teller, and a beloved teacher. We are a better church for your having been here, thank you so

much for your gifts. You go with our love and gratitude.

I know that I have omitted many *thank yous* to good people who put in hours of labor and caring to lead or help out in all kinds of ministries –

forgive me for that and know that you are all loved and valued.

Many blessings, and with gratitude and love,

Rev. Meg

From the Director of Religious Education

Practicing Being Human



"Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human." - James Luther Adams

Recently, I filled in as a teacher in the 7th-9th Grade OWL (Our Whole Lives) class at First Parish. OWL, as many of you know, is a yearlong class focusing on sexuality and relationships.

There I was, talking to some teens about STI's (sexually transmitted infections). I had a moment of thinking, "Is this religious education?" And I answered myself, "Yes!"

I couldn't agree more with UU theologian James Luther Adams, quoted above as saying "Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human." Church is a place where it all belongs: all of our human being and human doing and

human saying. To me, it's all religious, when we are intentional about it and when we reflect on it in the context of other people, and the earth, and creation, of which we're a part.

We live, we die, we cry, we laugh, we bleed, we heal, we fear, we sing, we yearn, we love. We make many mistakes, we forgive, and yes, sometimes we get sexually transmitted infections. Hopefully, we learn from each and every single one of those things. As I've said many times, we're all being religiously educated, all the way through our lives! We are practicing being human. We're entering into community with other humans in which we are practicing intentionally. In my mind, that's what makes FPUU a church. That's what makes it "religious." It's why what I do is called religious education.

Whether or not you would call yourself "religious," I hope you'll agree that you're "human," and that you're practicing what that means, here at FPUU. You're also giving other people the space and attention and resources to practice. That's what programs like OWL are all about, and it's one of the things that makes FPUU a great place: how much commitment and attention you give one another. It has been an honor to teach and learn with you and with your children!

--Alison Streit Baron

From the Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee cannot begin to articulate their thanks for Alison's time with us - but we can try!

Alison has met monthly with the Committee, and kept in touch with emails, and done all "the stuff" DRE's do - but she has done it with wonder, and smiles, and focus, and helped us realize how awesome we are.

Our disco potluck rocked (or shimmied) with her encouragement, our programs are fun with her

caring supervision, our personal growth has been nurtured by her - and personally, she's the best personal assistant I could ever hope to have!

Many candles of joy, and hugs, and happy dances for having experienced Alison Streit Baron!

*Allison is loved
a story-telling goddess
we weep as she goes.*

Cissy Hull-Allen, Jon Kornet, Clayton Springer and Sarah Zitoli.

Congratulations to High School Graduate Becky Flaherty!

Becky is an 18 year old senior graduating from King Philip High School.



Drum Major.

Becky was also part of the Debate Team for much of her High School career. She has been involved with special needs kids through her school for the last two years and hopes to continue this work

Becky is passionate about music and was a member of the King Phillip Marching Band for 4 years as a flute player. This past year she served as

while in college. She was voted 'Most Likely to Change the World' by her senior classmates.

She will be going to American University in September, where she plans to study Justice and Law in the School of Public Affairs. She hopes to someday be a judge.

Good luck Becky!



Executive Board Committee Notes

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In last week's message, Margaret Rolph told you about the projected results on the pledge drive and on our budget deliberations up that point. In the meantime, we have received an update on the pledge numbers, and the Executive Board met on May 21 to discuss and recommend a budget for the 1015-16 church year.

If all outstanding pledges from existing pledge units come in at last year's level, this year's pledge drive will bring in almost the same amount as last year's pledge drive, so the reduction will not be as large as earlier projected.

In our budget discussion last Thursday, the Executive Board came to the conclusion that reducing Rev. Meg's hours to a $\frac{3}{4}$ position for the coming year was not the best thing to do. When we discussed what parts of her current activities she would have to drop, we concluded that these were too valuable to give up, as we were thinking about the health and continued growth of the congregation. However, given that in her continued full-time role, Rev. Meg's compensation would still have to be below the UUA's suggested range of fair compensation for a congregation of our size in our geographic area, the Board pledged to bring her compensation up to this suggested range within two years – by increasing her pay, if we can, or by cutting her hours, if we must.

The Board affirmed its earlier, tentative intention to hire a Coordinator (rather than a Director) of Religious Education for the coming year, for the reasons which Margaret outlined in last week's message; to reduce our payments to the UUA for the year, and to make some other, minor budget

adjustments. (Our final recommendations will be seen in the proposed budget that will go out with the warrant for the congregational meeting on June 7.) The result would be a[n almost] balanced budget.

In addition, the Board recommends that we create a new capital reserve fund for anticipated future capital expenses (such as a new roof for the meeting house), with a starting capital of \$ 15,000, taken (by balance sheet adjustment) from money gifted to the church. We hope to add to this fund from pledge income every year, so that we can be assured of sufficient reserves for our anticipated capital expenditures.

After the service on May 31, at 11:30, everyone is invited to join members of the Board for a discussion of the proposed budget.

Your Executive Board



Annual Meeting – June 7th

Annual Meeting First Parish Unitarian Universalist
Medfield, MA

Sunday June 7, 2015 at 11:30am

The Executive Board hereby notifies all voting members of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield of the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held in the Sanctuary of First Parish at 11:30am on Sunday, June 7, 2015. *A quorum of 25 percent of Full Members eligible to vote at the time of posting of this notice must be present to conduct the business of the Congregation. This translates to approximately 28 members.*

Agenda:

Accepting reports from the Minister, all officers, standing committee chairs, and representatives of various Church organizations.

Executive Board Report on the 2014-15 church year

Nominating Committee Report

Election of officers to Executive Board:

- Chair: Fritz Fleischmann - first year of 2-year term
- Vice-Chair: Richard Mastronardi - 2nd year of Fritz's 2-yr term as Vice Chair
- Treasurer: Mike Drumm - first year of 2-year term
- At-Large: Margaret Rolph - first year of a 2-year term.

Election of Nominating Committee:

- Julie DeSorgher
- Jen Bartle

FY2016 Budget

Presentation

Discussion

Vote on budget

Please bring any reports that you receive by email or in the mail to the meeting. We will convene right after coffee hour. The meeting should last about one and a half hours.

Jowl and Howl and some Youth Group, oh my!

Chris and I have spent most of our Sunday evenings this year with some very amazing 14-18 year olds. We've discussed making choices, living our values, and being better friends; we've practiced defending our position on topics ranging from going out with friends to equal rights, parenting with "Baby-think-it-over", to healthy sexual relationships; we've met some great LGBTQ people - and, at least for me, I've had so much fun doing it! I got the night shift at the youth group sleepover in the vestry, along with Clayton - and it's been a very long time since I've done an all-nighter! Even that was fun!

The First Parish Youth Group picked "Popcorn Theology" as their focus while still in the Coming of Age program. The problem was a larger group and a smaller TV to view the movies on. Families donated funds to buy a projector as a gift for the church, but it wasn't enough. After some brainstorming - 6 nights before Medfield Day - the group decided to do Henna tattoos to raise funds for a projector. I smiled at their optimism, hoping their idea would put a dent in the additional \$550 needed. And ohmygoodness, they did it, with a total of around \$700! With Sarah and Arnold as their guides, monthly movies have been watched and discussed.

Our young people have wonderful thoughts, deep caring, and tremendous humor, and we appreciate the time they spend with us. All our groups have participants from our greater community who add to this service First Parish offers.

Jowl (Junior Our Whole Lives) and Howl (High school Our Whole Lives) will have their end of the year celebrations in June. 10 years ago, the first OWL group heard the story of a UU minister in a small town who asked the local drug store to stop

keeping condoms behind the counter as people were embarrassed to ask for them, even though they were trying to make healthy choices. Our group asked if they could try to buy condoms, and that is now a tradition in our celebration. We demystify and educate, and our group in turn shares facts, not myths, to help keep people safe. Through the OWL program, we learn postponing sexual intimacy is our safest and healthiest choice right now, and we can still have spiritually intimate relationships.

In 2015-16, we will again offer Youth Group, and our High School OWL group will continue their curriculum. Our JOWL group will start their Coming of Age activities, learning to articulate their current credo. Congratulations, and thank you, to the 18 young people who shared ten months of their Sunday evenings with us!!

Cissy Hull-Allen & Chris Flaherty



The Living the Welcoming Congregation Task Force



The Living the Welcoming Congregation Task Force was thrilled to host a discussion led by Aubry Threlkeld after church on Sunday May 17th. About 20 FPUU members and

friends got together in the Vestry and listened as Aubry shared his personal and professional experiences with LGBTQ advocacy. He then facilitated a lively and insightful conversation that covered many topics, primarily the use of language when speaking to and about the LGBTQ community.

A few highlights from our discussion:

- Aubry profiled the transgender community as one which is being particularly challenged right now, with "walking while trans" often being a reason for people being stopped and questioned by police. And LGBTQ individuals of color are often up against more issues than those who are white, due to inherent racial biases.

- We discussed how we feel about the use of "marked language" - e.g., pointing out "the black man" vs. "the man in the checked shirt."

- We talked about being cognizant of one another's differences vs. washing out or overlooking our differences, which make us who we are.

- We realized we must take care not to be lulled into a false sense of security that we are "past it" when it comes to being truly inclusive of the LGBTQ community. For example, look at the tremendous gains that have been made on same-sex marriage. Or the fact that gay characters are prevalent on television. These facts may lead some well-meaning people to believe the fight for equal treatment of this community is over, but we still have a long way to go. (For those who have read "The New Jim Crow," you will remember Michelle Alexander making a similar argument that the election of black president may lead people to believe that racism is over in the US.)

Our group hopes to host more events during the next church year, so stay tuned!

Becca Kornet, Cissy Hull-Allen, Thea Iberall, Jenifer Bartle, and Alice Galley



Some Photos from Little Red Wagon-May 3rd.



You might be familiar with the annual Boston area Walk for Hunger, organized by Project Bread. Medfield's local version of this, for several years now, has been to have an interfaith walk on

the same day, in which kids from area churches collect food in little red wagons and proceed from Medfield Center to Metacomet Park.

On Sunday, May 3rd, FPUU was part of the Little Red Wagon Walk in Medfield. We met with other churches at the Church of the Advent at 11 am and walked down Pleasant Street to the park, where they delivered food collected for the Medfield Food Cupboard.



Notes from the Director of Music



I want to give an enormous thank you to all who made the World Premiere of my new musical *Operator* a wonderful success! The performers sang and acted beautifully, the volunteers

gave generously of their time and talents, and the production reached into the larger community.

We had 24 volunteers on the nights of the performances who did a fantastic job—bartenders, front of house staff, food preparers and cleaners. I am very thankful for all of their generous time and hard work, many of whom helped on more than one night. I would particularly like to thank Susan Stromgren for planning and organizing the amazing food, and Greg Beedy for ordering for the bar. There was a lot of fantastic behind-the-scenes work too: Thea Iberall sat in on rehearsals and read lines when cast members could not come; Sarah Zitoli donated the beautiful banner which Dan Bibel and Fred Bunger hung; the Matthews family and the Galleys donated set pieces; and David Temple donated the old-fashioned radio. Becca and John Kornet, as well as other cast members, stepped in to replace two cast members who had a sudden family emergency, and the productions ran very smoothly despite only having an hour to re-assign and learn their new roles.

Operator was also a big success in terms of outreach into the community. Of the 170 audience members who bought tickets, 80% were not church members. The show seemed to appeal to people of all ages: many teenagers attended

whose friends were in the production, and at least 12 audience members attended more than once. Several older audience members told me they had read about it in the newspaper and wanted to come because either they or friends had been telephone operators. I received many kind e-mails from audience members who came from Boston and beyond to attend the production, and they commented on the timeless aspects of the show as well the talented performers.

Operator was supported in part by a Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant from the Local Cultural Council of Medfield. This was the first FPUU production supported by a grant, and I believe it helped raised the visibility of First Parish Medfield as part of Medfield's Cultural Center. Our expenses were well estimated, and our profits matched our expectations. Our gross proceeds was roughly \$3,600 and we raised over \$2,000 after expenses.

Lastly, I have to thank Becca Kornet for being the Executive Producer of *Operator*, who was on hand for all planning aspects of this production and organized all of the volunteers as well. Thanks to her tireless work and enthusiasm, we were more prepared for this production than for any of our previous fundraisers, and I think we both agree that this was our most successful fundraiser to date!

Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm and support!

Sincerely,

Eva Kendrick

From the Worship and Music Committee



What themes would you like to explore in 2015-2016?

Rev. Meg and the Worship and Music Committee are considering doing *theme-based worship services* next church year. Theme-based services explore a specific moral issue of our time or personal challenge topic from multiple viewpoints over several weeks of worship services.

We need your ideas; they can be in the form of a question or simply a phrase or thought about an issue or challenge you'd like to explore. Send your theme suggestions to Becca Kornet, WMC chair, at becca_kornet@yahoo.com. Thank you!



Farmers' Market to Start on June 4th -with new vendors!

The Medfield Farmers' Market will return to the grounds of our Church for a 5th season on **Thursday, June 4th from 2:00 to 6:30 pm and will continue each Thursday through September 24th.**



Ward's Berry Farm, Jordan Brothers Seafood, Amir's Natural Foods and Bark Back Bakery and Annie's Just Desserts will all be returning. Additionally, we are excited to announce Chestnut Farms a family owned and operated farm providing grass fed beef, pastured pork, free range poultry, lamb, and goat. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday afternoons.
Eve Potts, Market Manager
Alison Galley, Co-Manager

More information can be found by visiting our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. You could also email us at admin@firstparishmedfield.org or call or write Alison Galley at 508-934-6415 Alison1956@verizon.net



END OF THE YEAR POTLUCK PICNIC BRUNCH

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST

(AFTER THE SERVICE)

#

Please contact Kirsten D'Abate to let her know what
dish you can bring to share!
617-780-0261 or kk@dab8.net

In case of rain,
we'll stay in the
vestry.

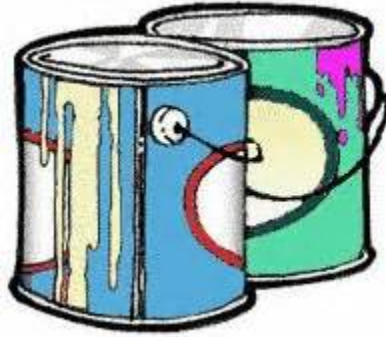
Extended
babysitting hours
available 11:30-
1pm

Please bring your
favorite lawn
games or jump
ropes or bubbles!

Soft drinks,
juice, and water
will be provided

Building and Grounds Committee

2015 Summer Spruce-up Ideas



With Church services ending in June, a long, lazy summer stretches before us. Ah, the luxury of time to do nothing. What? Nothing to do? We have a solution!

YOU CAN HELP. The tiny, but hard-working Buildings and Grounds Committee needs your input and your help.

- First, let us know what needs attention, what work would improve FPUU buildings and grounds
- Second, be willing to join a work crew to take on a project or two
- Third, be willing to LEAD a project that you have a special interest in.

Here is a sample of some projects that would help First Parish first impressions:

- Paint walls of vestry and vestry hall
- Varnish vestry floor
- Power wash Church front steps
- Repoint and paint block at front of Church
- Power wash and touch-up paint lower parts of church building

The full B& G work-list is available on the web-site.

Call, text, e-mail, or talk to Fred Bunger, Eve Potts or David Maxson to help.

Thanks,
Buildings and Grounds Team

Thank You!



Thank You to Flower Donors

Thank you to all our flower volunteers this year whose arrangements graced our vestry table. I will be



planning next year's calendar soon. Perhaps there is someone special or a date that you would like to share with our church community? If you know a particular date that you would like to reserve, please let me know now so I can get it on the calendar. I'll be sure to remind you in advance.

Best

Rebecca Stephenson

rgspt1@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



Thanks to all who have hosted coffee hour this year. That's almost everyone who attends Sunday mornings, so rather than name you individually and miss someone, please accept this blanket thanks. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and make our Sunday mornings together extra special. Ann Cunningham is the master coordinator for 2015-16, and Kirsten D'Abate is the coordinator for the month of September. If you would like to volunteer to coordinate a month or to host coffee hour in September, please e-mail them: anncunningham77@aol.com or kk@dab8.net. If you are new to hosting and would like an experienced helper,

just let us know, and we will provide one to host with you.

Thanks!

Membership Committee (Nancy Kingsbury)

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

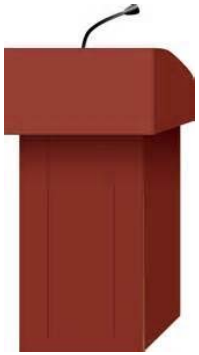
social action agenda, and preserving our historic Meeting House.

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



***Thank you Dan Bibel, for coordinating both programs for First Parish!**

Summer Lay Led Services



Please consider volunteering to lead or co-lead a simple, informal Sunday service in the vestry this summer. Rev. Meg will be away most of the summer, so for us to continue to offer the companionship of faith community we need lay people who are willing to lead a simple, very informal service. Visitors often come in the summer, too, and if we are closed many of them don't come back. So for our own community and for those who might like to be a part of it, helping to keep FPUU Medfield's services going in the summer is a great gift.

Susan Stromgren is the coordinator of the summer services, and can assist as worship manager in most services. The services follow a simple order, and there are directions in place so that you can focus on what you want to do in place of the sermon. This could be

favorite readings on a topic important to you, your thoughts about a topic dear to you, or something like showing a slide show, or going outdoors and doing walking meditation, or working on the garden together.

The sermon substitute is limited only by your imagination, and the requirement that it be related to the values we share.

For more information, email susanstromgren@gmail.com.

To sign up [click on https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/716763/](https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/716763/)

Time and the Bill Collector Wait for No One

Even though First Parish will be "off" for the summer the bills still keep coming. If you haven't already done so, please complete your pledge for this fiscal year which ends June 30th. Thank you.

Notes from the Church Office:



Please note that from June 18th until September 1st, the church office will be open on Thursday afternoons only. I can be reached via email and will be collecting the mail and messages weekly throughout the summer.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org
Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

FPUU Calendar of Events for June

Thursday, June 4	First Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30pm/Grounds COSM/7:00 pm/Minister's Office
Sunday, June 7	Annual Meeting/11:30 am/Sanctuary RE Meeting/12:00 pm/Vestry JOWL Field Trip & Party/6:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, June 11	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30pm/Grounds
Sunday, June 14	Father's Day HOWL Field Trip & Party/6:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, June 18	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30pm/Grounds Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, June 20	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day
Sunday, June 21	Last service before summer hiatus Potluck Picnic Brunch
Thursday, June 26	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30pm/Grounds

Have a wonderful summer!
Our Ingathering Sunday service will be held on September 13, 2015

