



First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield, MA

(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org



December Newsletter 2015

From the Minister

Dear FPUU friends,

I hope that each one of you had a restful Thanksgiving in the company of people and animals you care about, in places that remind you of how much you are loved. Thanksgiving feels like the peaceful oasis in the race through the desert of the holiday season. I hope that you can keep the oasis feeling with you and really enjoy your chances to visit and to give and receive in so many different ways over the next few weeks.

Thanksgiving is always a welcome respite, but this year it felt more sharply demarcated than usual, perhaps because of the Paris attacks before and the Planned Parenthood attack afterwards. This moment is also fraught with meaning for our world because of the international climate conference starting in Paris.

On a local level, our role in each of these situations is small but, together with others' actions, can make a real difference. Many of us are active in

related issues, but that raises the question of what the role of the church in situations like these.

The church is here to help each person find an oasis of spiritual growth and support so that we can live in the world as best we can in accord with our shared values. But to do that effectively, we need to do more than support our members. We need to articulate our shared *core* purpose, a mission that can guide our institutional actions in the world as well as toward each other, so that we can have greater impact.

FPUU articulated its' mission before, but a mission needs to be reexamined every three to five years according to the Unitarian Universalist Association, so that it reflects the current realities of members, the surrounding community and the greater world. Accordingly, for the past year the executive board has been working with the congregation to do just this.

Early in December we will have our semi-annual meeting, to which all are invited. There we will vote on the draft mission statement that the executive board, working with many of you over that year, arrived at. I hope, and the executive board hopes, that after that meeting we will have a mission that truly reflects the deepest

commitment of the church's members in today's world. Having it will guide our actions, priorities and focus. Having it will help us live out our shared values more effectively. If we were sitting around the Thanksgiving table together, I'd raise my cup and say "Here's to focused goals and shared purposes, to bringing our values more fully alive in the world as it is today!"

I look forward to seeing you at church.
Many blessings!
Rev. Meg



Office hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment
Work cell: 781-767-7663
Pastoral emergencies: 781-850-3307



If the Weather Outside is Frightful...

To keep you informed on any closings or delays, there will be an announcement on the church website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. An email blast will also go out to those that are on the mailing list.

Warrant

Semi-Annual Meeting First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield, MA

December 6, 2015 at 11:30 AM

The Executive Board hereby notifies all voting members of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield of the Semi-Annual Parish Meeting, to be held in the Sanctuary of First Parish at 11:30am on Sunday, December 6, 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 26 members.*

In accordance with the Church Bylaws of First Parish Medfield (approved on June 3, 2012) in Article 4.2, the Semi-Annual Meeting is described as follows:

Article 4 - ANNUAL AND SPECIAL PARISH MEETINGS

Article 4.2 Midyear Meeting

Article 4.2.1 Time and Place: A semi-annual Parish meeting is held in the fall between the first day of November and the last day of December.

Article 4.2.2 Purpose: The semi-annual Parish meeting shall be held to update the Congregation on the status of the Church at the time of the meeting and conduct any other business as determined by the Executive Board.

The following topics will also be addressed at the Semi-Annual Meeting:

- Financial update from the Treasurer
- Introduction of the newly formed “Committee on Shared Ministry” and brief description
- Update on new “Capital Project Feasibility Task Force” re: Potential New Education Center
- Update on Vision/Mission
- Addressing any other business that may be put forward by those present

We will convene right after an abbreviated coffee hour. The meeting should last about one hour. Childcare will be provided.

Thank you on behalf of the Executive Board.

Notes from the Executive Board

Dear Friends:

As many of you know, Eva Kendrick is starting her much-deserved sabbatical on December 15 (fear not – she has promised to return on May 1, 2016!). Earlier this fall, the Executive Board created an ad-hoc search committee for an interim music director, led by David Temple and including Becca Kornet, Shirley Riga, Susan Stromgren, and Rev. Meg. Last Sunday, we met with Vinh Pham, a graduate of the Longy School of Music and of Emerson College, for an interview and brief recital in our sanctuary. All who heard him agreed that Vinh would be an excellent choice for the role, and I am happy to report that he has accepted our offer.

Please join us in welcoming Vinh when he joins us for Eva's last performance and choir rehearsal this year on Sunday, December 13 – and in thanking David and the search committee for a job well done!

Following our congregational mini-retreat on November 1, the Board has reflected on where we were on our journey toward an updated mission and strategic plan. Our conclusion: while we are ready to present the new mission statement for a congregational vote at the upcoming semi-annual meeting on December 6, more work needs to be done by the Board before we can ask members of the congregation to join us for the next round of discussion. We have therefore **postponed the follow-up retreat planned for December** (I had

asked you to hold the date) to the next year (date to be determined), and have instead agreed to meet for another Board retreat on January 10. I will keep you posted as this discussion goes forward.

Many of the participants on November 1 expressed a desire for more informal fellowship among members and friends, for socializing, for camaraderie, for getting-to-know-each-other opportunities, preferably over food! Therefore, we are hoping to start a new series of informal in-home dinners in the New Year, a way of getting together that (I am told) was very successful some 15 years ago. It sounds like an old tradition that is worth reviving! We imagine friendly groups of 6-8 persons, talking to each other, about themselves and the world – not necessarily about anything related to First Parish (and certainly not about fundraising). And to cut down on the work for the hosts, the new incarnation will be in the form of potlucks – hosts will only be expected to provide a table and clean dishes. For families with young children, babysitting will be provided at the vestry. Please tell us what you think about this! At the semi-annual meeting, we will ask for volunteers to form a small ad-hoc organizing committee for the first half of 2016.

To all of you: warm wishes for a restful and reflective Thanksgiving!

See you in church.

Fritz



The Medfield Garden Club Holiday Greens Sale

The First Parish UU of Medfield



Saturday, December 5th
10 a.m. until noon

Christmas wreaths, swags, kissing balls, basket arrangements, centerpieces, cemetery memorials, and the Garden Club's well-known miniature boxwood trees will all be available for sale. This is the Club's primary fundraiser and the proceeds support the Club's efforts to beautify the town.



Come early for best selection!

You're Invited!



Join us to hang the greens and decorate the church on **Saturday, December 5 at 1 PM.**

Please come and join in the holiday spirit. There will be something for everyone to do and all ages are welcome. We need lots of hands to hang the wreaths, put up the tree and place the pew bows. Thank you and any questions please call Rebecca Stephenson 508 740-0663

Thank you to our Flower Donors



November 22nd **Allison Galley**

November 29th **Alma Bair and Allan Weiss**

December 6th **Jessica Razza**

December 13th **Rebecca Stephenson**

December 20th **Linda Finkle** - *Flowers donated in memory and to celebrate the life of Joan Arcese whose birthday was Dec 21, 1934 and who died Jan 2, 2015.*

December 27th **Linda Finkle** - *Flowers in memory and celebrating the life of Joan Arcese whose birthday was Dec 21, 1934 and who died Jan 2, 2015.*

January 3rd **Dan Bible**

January 10th **Jessica Razza**

Saturday, December 12 at 7 p.m.
First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

New Life* Holiday Concert!

**Help Others Make
a New Start!**

Featuring Medfield Musicians:

First Parish Medfield Choir & Friends
Cole Foster & Matthew McGrory,
Medfield Sing-Off Winners
David McGrory, Concert Pianist
Trills'n Chills A Cappella Group
Becca & John Kornet
The Music of Lowell Mason
and Much More!

\$15 Donation

*newlifehr.org "Recycling Furniture. Rebuilding Lives."

26 North St. Medfield, MA 02052. Handicapped Accessible.

NEW LIFE CONCERT FEATURING CONCERT PIANIST DAVID MCGRORY TO BENEFIT NEW LIFE HOME REFURNISHING

WHAT: Holiday Benefit Concert in Medfield

WHEN: Saturday, December 12, 2015, 7 p.m.

WHERE: First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Medfield, 26 North St., Medfield, MA 02052

COST: \$15 donation (all proceeds will benefit New Life Home Refurnishing)

FOR MORE INFO: visit www.firstparishmedfield.org for more details

CONCERT DESCRIPTION

Musicians from the Medfield community will perform holiday and community-themed works to benefit the New Life Home Refurnishing non-profit organization in Walpole. New Life Home Refurnishing provides gently used furniture and household items to people in need in the surrounding communities who have lost homes to fires or floods, to veterans of war, and to people who have been homeless.



Concert pianist David McGrory, a resident of Medfield, is featured on this program and will perform three movements from Liszt's dazzling *Wienachtsbaum*. McGrory is a Belfast-born pianist who began studies at the age of four. In 1998 he won the piano division and was an overall concerto finalist at the RTA Musician of the Future competition in Dublin. He has been a finalist at the Blacktie National Piano competition in Ireland, the Concerto Competition at the Longy School of Music, and an Honors Competition winner at New England Conservatory. McGrory is also a musical director for various Boston musicals and a composer as well. He recently released his debut CD, *Beethoven & Bizet: Variations*.

Other performers include the First Parish Medfield Choir, who will perform a work by composer and First Parish Medfield Music Director Eva Kendrick; Meg Fisher, a Medfield resident who performs with Boston Cecilia; Thea Iberall and Mary Corthell, who will read poetry; professional vocalists Becca and John Kornet; the Trills 'n Chills vocal group, made up of middle and high school students from the Eva Kendrick Voice Studio; Sing-Off winners Cole Foster and Matthew McGrory—and much more!



This concert is organized by First Parish Medfield Music Director Eva Kendrick and supported by the Green Sanctuary Committee at First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield, which raises consciousness about environmental issues and generates commitment to community action and sustainable living. First Parish Medfield frequently hosts musical fundraisers, including a concert by San Francisco Opera Bass-Baritone William O'Neill and three original dramatic works written by Kendrick: *Emily*, a chamber opera based on the life of Emily Dickinson; *Le Bistro Café* which was presented as a dinner theatre; and *Operator*, a touching story about telephone operators in the 1950s, which received its world premiere at First Parish Medfield in May 2015.

For our Youth: Here's What's Happening...



Coming of Age

CoA is for our First Parish 9th and 10th graders and will meet December 6th and December 20th from 7-9 in the Vestry.



Youth Group for grades 11-12

The youth group will be shopping for new items for the First Parish Little Lights corner. If anyone has any suggestions, please let Lizzie (our Little Lights childcare coordinator) know. The purchases are a donation from the monies the group raised on Medfield Day. The First Parish Youth Group includes 11th and 12th graders from Medfield, Sharon, and Dover.



Youth Group/HOWL Party, Sunday December 27th

There will be a combined group party on Sunday, December 27th that will include a Yankee Swap, yummy food, and a favorite OWL game. For 11-12th graders, 7-9 in the vestry.



MA Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action

Dear Friends,

At this time of thanksgiving, we are grateful for the manifold blessings of Creation and the new energy among people of faith to raise our voices on issues of climate change and social justice.

The **MA Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action** continues the campaign for an energy policy that meets our moral obligations for a clean, just energy future here in Massachusetts. We are also looking to Paris as world leaders gather for talks on a new global climate treaty at the **COP 21 UN Conference on Climate Change**. We unite with people of faith around the world to demand bold, ambitious, and collective solutions to the climate crisis. Sadly, due to the terrorist attacks, authorities in Paris have canceled many actions scheduled during the conference, making it all the more important that we rally elsewhere in the world.

We want to share two important ways MAICCA will be joining events as part of the global climate justice movement:

Saturday, December 12, 1 pm to 3 pm, the day after the Paris climate talks conclude, MAICCA will join the

Jobs, Justice, Climate March: Rally to Defend New England's

Future. This rally and mass mobilization will call for local solutions that strengthen communities and create a more just, resilient future. MAICCA faith leaders, including Rev. Fred Small, will speak and sing at the rally. **Details:** Rally at Boston Common (Parkman Bandstand). Then march to Government Center. Click **here** to let us know you are coming.



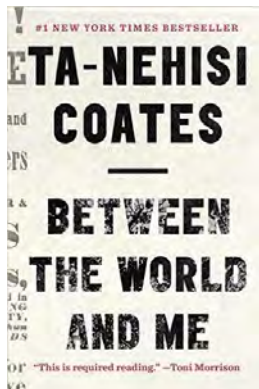
Look for the yellow parasol on Sunday at the Global Climate March Boston!

Following our own last powerful action at the State House on November 10, the MA Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action is ready for the next step in our campaign for a clean and just energy future.

- **Monday, December 14, 7 pm to 8:30 pm**, please join us for the **MAICCA Campaign Update and Energy Briefing** (location TBA). Come for an update on how we are continuing to build our interfaith movement for climate action and get the latest on our five Coalition priorities, including recent legislative debates on solar. We'll also share a briefing on the energy report just issued by Attorney General Maura Healey's office, and learn how this ground-breaking study may affect our campaign. (Click **here** for an infographic and more on the study.)

*Please click **here** to let us know whether you can join us on November 29, December 12, and December 14!*

All Church Read



Let's read a book and talk about it! Our common read will be the extremely well reviewed Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates, and we will meet on January 31 after the service to discuss the book.

Mr. Coates is a black author who writes beautifully about the hazards and hopes of black male life. Between the World and Me is written in the form of a letter to a black teenage boy. The boy is Coates's 15-year-old son, who is trying to make sense of blatant racial injustice and come to grips with his place in a world that refuses to guarantee for him the freedoms that so many others take for granted.



"I write you in your 15th year," Coates states in the early pages. "And you know now, if you did not before, that the police departments of your country have been endowed with the authority to destroy your body. . . . I tell you now that the question of how one should live within a black body, within a country lost in the Dream, is the question of my life."

You're invite to join in reading this book, and come to discuss it with others on **January 31, at 11:30 AM.**

Little Lights Reminder



Childcare is provided during our Sunday service from 9:45-11:15. Our caregivers are compensated for that time and often have to leave promptly. Please help them get home for homework by collecting your child during coffee hour! You are more than welcome to stay and supervise your own children in the children's corner after the babysitters have left but please remember to clean up afterwards.

Our babysitters love your kids and appreciate your help!

Holiday Services

December 13

"When the Holidays Hurt"
Special afternoon service at 2:30 pm

Rev. Meg Soens

When much of your town seems wrapped in seasonal joy, it can be especially hard for those who cannot share that feeling. If you have had significant loss, received news that has shaken your world, or something else is overshadowing the season, this service will acknowledge that and provide a healing place.

December 20

"Solstice"

Our Religious Education program presents its annual holiday pageant.

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Rev. Meg Soens

At 5:30 pm on Wednesday, December 24th, we will gather for our traditional Christmas Eve Service of music and readings and candlelight. Come with your families and bring your friends!



Through generous contributions at the Medfield Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, \$411.75 was given to the Medfield Food Cupboard.



For 25 years, the Gifts for Kids Program has helped ease the financial burden for families in need during the holiday season. Children identified by human service providers in communities in and around Norfolk County receive holiday gifts through your generosity. This year the need for your help is greater than ever. We are asking for your renewed support so that we may continue to bring joy to families in our community this holiday season.

To sponsor a child: Starting November 16, e-mail or call (9AM to 9PM) one of the

following individuals:

Teri Gorsky

terigfk@gmail.com

617-267-1441

Katherine Dowd

katherinedowd121@gmail.com

781-784-4405

Karen Gordon

kgordongfk@gmail.com

508-384-7616

You will be given the first name, ID number, age, clothing size, and gift preferences or needs of a child. Place **new, unwrapped** gifts in a large, **securely sealed** garbage bag. To make sure every bag gets to the intended recipient, please include a tag with the child's name and ID number inside the bag and tape a second ID tag to the outside of the bag. Donations of wrapping paper and tape are greatly appreciated.

Drop-off dates and sites:

WALPOLE: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 4:00 - 6:00 pm

VFW Post #5188 at 33 Robbins Road, off Rt. 27 (next to Johnson Middle School)

Call 508-641-2421 to speak to someone at the drop-off site

SHARON: Thursday, December 17, 2015 4:00 – 6:00 pm

O'Connell Hall, next to Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 59 Cottage Street

Call 508-641-2421 to speak to someone at the drop-off site

In order to deliver the gifts in a timely manner, it is **imperative** that you drop off your donations at these times.

Gifts for Kids is an all-volunteer organization, so your gifts go directly to children. Please become a sponsor or volunteer, and help spread the word. We understand if you are unable to spend the suggested \$75 - \$100 to sponsor a child. If you would still like to help, please consider making a donation of cash, gift cards, new clothing or unopened toys. For more information, visit us at giftsforkidsinfo.com or email me at jgbeangfk@gmail.com.

If you wish to make a donation, please make your check out to *Gifts for Kids* and send to the above address or donate at our website. Gifts for Kids is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible. The tax identification number is 20-3361694. Please save this letter and any of your receipts for tax purposes.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Janet G. Bean

President, Gifts for Kids, Inc.

Notes from the Church Office:



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

Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com

With the holidays quickly approaching, please remember that if you are using Amazon.com, you can help support First Parish!



To do this, go to our website www.firstparishmedfield.org. and click on link at the bottom of the page. Just go on to the Amazon site, select and order any merchandise as you ordinarily do – and that's it – you have now helped First Parish! First Parish receives a portion (between 2 and 5%) of every dollar you spend online at Amazon.com! It won't cost you anymore and will help support First Parish.



So – go to our website - use the link to go to the Amazon site - make your selections - purchase - that's it! Please refer your friends and neighbors to this link too!

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



Chili	Canned Pineapple, Mandarin	Sweet/Salty Snacks (crackers, cookies)
Beef Stew	Oranges	Kid Friendly Cereal
Canned Chicken	Raisins	Single Serve Applesauce, other fruit
Baked Beans	Large Juices	
Pasta Sauce (all set with dry pasta)	Canned Corn, Carrots, Peas (all set with Green Beans)	
Tomato Products		

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.

FPUU Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 1	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/U-House/7:15 pm
Saturday, December 5	Medfield Garden Club Greens Sale/10-12
Sunday, December 6	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Semi-Annual Meeting/11:30 am/Sanctuary COA/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, December 8	Brown Bag Lunch/12:00 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, December 10	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Friday, December 11	Dress Rehearsal/7:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, December 12	Fall Benefit/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, December 13	Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House Youth Group/12:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, December 15	COSM/7:00 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, December 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, December 19	NewLife Refurnishing/8:00 am/Walpole
Sunday, December 20	COA/7:00 pm/Vestry Newsletter Deadline Anti-Racism in the 'Burbs/Vestry 2:00pm
Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service/5:30 pm
Friday, December 25	Christmas Day
Sunday, December 27	Youth Group & HOWL Holiday Party/7:00 pm/Vestry

