

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org

*"The world's favorite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May."
- Edwin Way Teale*



May 2016 Newsletter

From the Minister

Dear FPUU friends,

It's May, it's May, the wondrous month of May... and a great time to think about sources of energy as the green rises and pink, white and yellow blooms burst out. And as we move toward the completion of my ministry with you.

We just celebrated Earth Day at church. We did this by sharing -- during the Sunday service -- some of the experiences that bring us back into a

place of awe and reverence for the Earth, life and the cosmos. We honored that wonderful, core source of energy in the church: our Green Sanctuary team.

And we celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up our grounds and buildings, led by the Building and Grounds and Green Sanctuary Committees. We picked up trash around the edges of the green, mowed the lawn, cleared out the U-house basement, sorted useable and unusable paint,

replaced ceiling tiles, power washed the outside of the sanctuary building, and sanded our outdoor wooden benches in preparation for painting. Good for our little spot of Earth, and for ourselves.

Earth Day and May are great times to celebrate, and they are important times to examine ourselves.

After all, as Wendell Berry wrote, "We have lived by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives, so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption that what is good for the world will be good for us."

We must change. And the fundamental transformation we must make right now is to find a place of awe and reverence towards other creatures and the natural world. In our modern, anthropocentric Western culture this is a great challenge, but it is one we must take up. We must take it up, because it allows us to recognize at a deep emotional level the truth about who and whose we are, and because finding this place again will bring us joy and happiness.

There are many paths toward finding this place of awe, including

- acknowledging that animal cognition isn't a ladder that peaks with us at the top but is rather a vigorous bush,
- remembering the incredible timeline science has shown us of our cosmos, our earth, and life's development over so many, many years,
- experiencing times of unity with beautiful natural scenes or with particular creatures or items, and
- relating to animals we love.

Whatever our particular paths, this is the most important theological work we do.

When we can really embrace the truth about our inter-relationship and interdependence with the natural world, and stand in awe and reverence of what is, then, *then*

- we can understand what we humans are doing to our world,
- we give up useless guilt, because we are conscious of our own real size, and
- we will take the steps we can take to help right the natural world.

In awe and reverence we will do this last, not because we know that our efforts will make the difference we hope for, but because we love and honor life around and before and after us, so we will try to live in a way that reflects this as much as possible.

Truth aside, reconnecting ourselves to our world with awe and reverence and gratitude is also terribly important because it brings joy and happiness.

When we recognize our interconnectedness and interdependence and feel that awe and reverence, we step away from the mistaken apprehension that we are alone, which at its core feels miserable and meaningless. There is joy in knowing who we really are, and how we really fit in the universe. So, take joy!

At base, finding our reverence, awe and gratitude for the natural world means reconstructing our identity. We are not just men or women or white or black, or straight or trans or any of the slices of human society that we can and need to name. Knowing who we really are in relation to the world and cosmos puts all these identities in perspective, subsumed in the truth that each of us is part of something much, much bigger, completely holy, and completely deserving of our love and reverence.

So these days, we UUs are called to be heretics again. *Heretic* is one of our UU favorite identities ever since we rejected Trinitarianism. But now our heresy must be this – that the natural world is as important as we are. We must be heretics for the earth, and remember deep in our hearts and our bones that everything is holy.

As we become such heretics, we create right here in Medfield the sacred community of solace for the coming times of climate challenges, we create the community of strength and nurturance that helps us best live out our values, and to take the steps we can to help effect our world’s direction.

“We have lived by the assumption that what was

good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives, so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption that what is good for the world will be good for us.”

We must find ways to abandon our isolated specialness and stand in awe of the natural world of which we are a small part. And we can.

We must recover the sense of reverence for the universe, and the ability to be-humble and connected in its presence. And we will.

Many blessings,
Rev. Meg

Green Sanctuary Committee



The Green Sanctuary Committee has been persistently spreading the word about the Massachusetts anti-idling law. Using graphics created by high school students, 500 anti-idling flyers are being distributed by the students to their parents and others.

On Earth Day Sunday, we had quite a fun time cleaning up the area behind FPUU. But there is so much more to be done if we want a healthy planet. Many organizations are working hard towards that goal. Bills are coming up in the legislature.

Think about checking out 350.org, Citizens’ Climate Lobby, or MA Interfaith Coalition for Climate. For more info, contact me at theaiberall@yahoo.com.



On May 1st our Music Director, Eva Kendrick, returns to church from her spring sabbatical. Welcome Back Eva!

Notes from the Executive Board



Dear Members and Friends:

The Executive Board has had a busy month. I want to highlight two activities:

One: the interim search. As I wrote in my e-mail to you of April 23, an interim taskforce of the Executive Board -- Darline Lewis, Rich Mastronardi, Margaret Rolph (chair) – has been working to craft an application to the UUA for an interim minister. The Board voted on the final version last week, and I am happy to let you know that our application has been submitted. Thanks to Margaret, Darline and Rich for getting this done on time!

In order to offer a competitive rate of compensation, to follow UUA recommendations for fair compensation, but also to stay within our likely budget, our application is not for a full-time interim minister, but for a 2/3 position. This means that we will need to redefine the role of the minister for this coming year and be ready to fill some of the gaps created by a reduced position.

We also decided to seek an interim minister for one year, not two (offering a one-year contract, with an option to renew). In doing so, we followed the recommendation from many members of the congregation, including members of the last ministerial search committee, that we should use the one-year interim ministry to focus on our core

issues, and move forward vigorously with our search for a new settled minister.

For details about the search schedule, the role of an interim minister, and the tasks heading our way, [click here to see the UUA publication](#) that guided us in our deliberations.

Two: digitizing some of our historical documents. Last fall, we were approached by Dr. James Cooper, a historian serving as the director of New England's Hidden Histories, a not-for-profit project sponsored by the Congregational Library in Boston. He informed us that his project is interested in digitizing and transcribing some of our colonial-era documents, such as sermons and congregants' "Reflections" (on their spiritual state), which are of eminent historical interest. Many, if not most, of these documents are held by the Medfield Historical Society. Following a meeting on April 16 between members of our board and members of the MHS's Board of Curators, we drafted a written request to the MHS board regarding inventorying, digitizing and transcribing, as well as clarifying the legal status and the future storage of these documents. It is our expectation that all open questions will be resolved amicably and collaboratively, so that this part of Medfield's history can be preserved and made available to the public. (We will give you a fuller update at the annual meeting on May 15.)

And that is the last (but not least important) item in this update: our annual congregational meeting this year is earlier than usual, i.e., **Sunday, May 15**. Please make a note of this date and join us for this important event.

Thank you for being part of our community!

Fritz
Fritz Fleischmann, Chair, Executive Board

Thank
you!

To everyone who helped with the **YARD SALE**
by donating items and/or volunteering for the many tasks connected with
preparing and running it!

We raised a total of **\$1,731** for the
maintenance of our historic building,
and we had much fun doing it!





Here's What's Happening with Our Youth

COA:

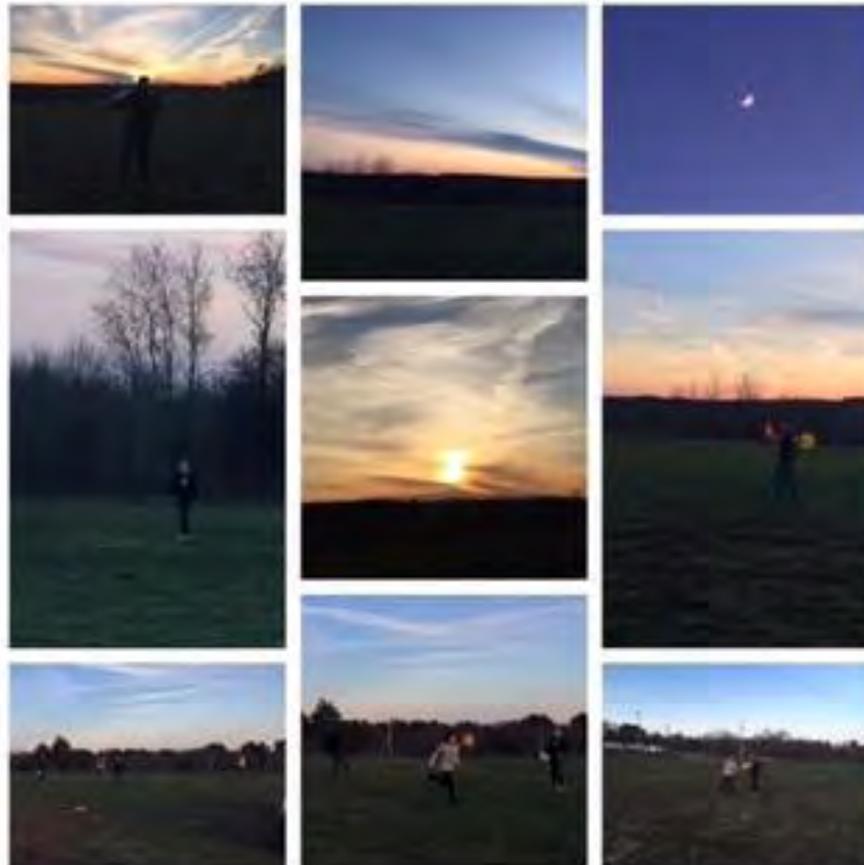
The Coming of Age group met in April with member Gaby Harrison and learned different ways we are able to be palliative caregivers with family, friends, and others in our community - often just by listening (a great reminder for us all). Our COA service is June 5th, so mentors and mentees (M&M's!) might be very busy communicating in the next few weeks! Two of our recent discussion questions have been "What's your favorite UU principle, and why?" and "How do you explain Unitarian Universalism to others?" On May 22nd, the M&Ms will be visiting the Lucy Stone Cooperative (<https://uucommunitycoops.org/lsc/>), an intentional UU community in Roxbury.

HOWL:

The High School Our Whole Lives group is participating in a condom wrapper design contest sponsored by One, and have been discussing the current political issues (HB2) and the #Illgowithyou campaign (allies being bathroom buddies for trans people). Next HOWL is 5/15 because of the COA trip.

Youth Group:

At their April meeting the Youth Group went to Hospital Hill to play Frisbee and watch the sunset, then returned to the vestry for pizza and conversation. May activity is being voted on!



Thanks for the Music - Vinh Pham!

Vinh served this church exceptionally since December 13, and throughout the Music Director's sabbatical. We really appreciated his gifts and his leadership and wish him the best in all future endeavors.



The ad-hoc First Parish Vocal Octet sang ABBA's "Thanks for the Music" to Vinh Pham on April 24 his last day as our interim music director during Eva Kendrick's sabbatical. Left to right, Vinh, Thea Iberall, Patricia Pratt, Rev. Meg Soens, Shirley Riga, Carol Coakley, Becca Kornet, Julie DeSorgher, and Kirsten D'Abate.

Flowers Needed



Thank you for all the flower donations this year! We are looking for additional donations for a few more weeks of the church year. This would be a great way to honor a loved one, or celebrate an occasion in your family. Please contact Rebecca Stephenson rgspt1@gmail.com or call her 508 740-0663.

Dates open are: May 15, May 22

Thanks to following who gave flowers this spring:

Denise Flaherty, Nancy Kingsbury, Linda Finkle, Sarah Drumm, Ann Cunningham, and Mary Corthell.



Coffee Hour Host Schedule for May

This month's coordinator is Karen Wians

May 1 – Kara DeTufo and Bernard Posner

May 8 – Becca Kornet

May 15 – Jessica Razza

May 22 – Karen Wians

May 29 – Susan Stromgren



Medfield Garden Club Annual Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 14th from 9-12

First Parish UU Medfield

26 North Street



Perennials, ground covers, edibles, native plants and saplings.

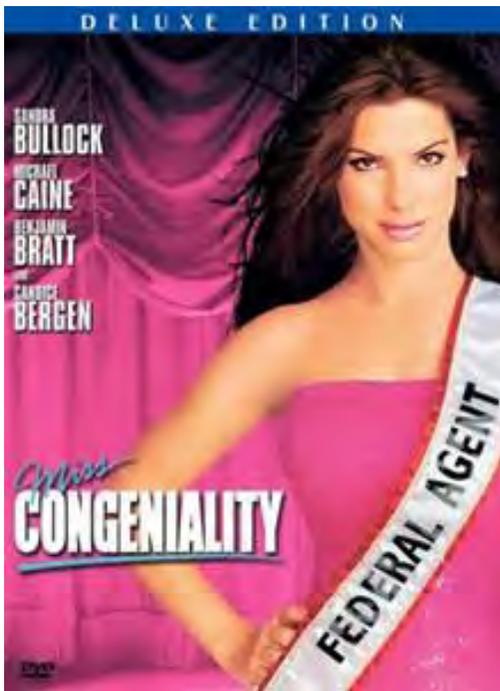
The proceeds from this sale help the Garden Club maintain nearly twenty road-side gardens all around Medfield.



Family Movie Night – May 20th

Join us in watching a family friendly movie on
Friday, May 20th – Starts at 7:00 pm!

This month's feature: Miss Congeniality



"Undercover FBI agent Gracie Hart shows no signs of having any femininity in her demeanor or appearance. Generally a bright and capable agent, she is in trouble at work when she makes an error in judgment in a case which results in a near disaster. As such, one of her by-the-books colleagues, Eric Matthews, who has never shown any inclination of thinking outside the box, is assigned to lead the high profile case of a terrorist coined The Citizen instead of her, while she is facing possible disciplinary action. Gracie pieces together the evidence to determine that The Citizen's next target will be the Miss United States beauty pageant. The pageant represents everything that Gracie abhors. Despite Gracie's mannish demeanor, Eric, with no other undercover female agent remotely fitting the demographic, assigns her to go undercover as a pageant contestant to see if she can flush out The Citizen, who is perhaps one of the other contestants". 1 hr 49 min. PG-13

A fun evening with popcorn and fruit drinks provided!

Babysitting available





EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, May 28th at 7 p.m.!

We are pleased to welcome our featured presenter, Rich Berg.

Rich is the producer and co-host of For the Love of Words filmed at Easton Community Cable, and the program developer and co-instructor of the Poetry Workshops at the Ames Free Library, both in Easton, MA. He has featured at Wake Up and Smell the Poetry in Hopkinton and the South Coast Center for the Arts, as well as dozens of other venues. His poetry & photography appear in several publications and galleries. Rich has a B.S.B.A degree from Suffolk University and teaches writing and about overcoming adversity. He is a brain injury survivor and an advocate for the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts. Rich's theme is "Anything can Happen..."

As always, five minute open mic slots are available to all poets, storytellers and musicians.

The suggested donation is \$5, \$3 for students.

Refreshments are provided by our series sponsor, Starbucks of Medfield.

Medfield Farmers' Market to Re-open on Thursday, June 2nd!

Thursdays, June 2th – September 22th
from 2:00 to 6:30 pm



The Medfield Farmers' Market will return to the grounds of the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church for a 6th season.



Ward's Berry Farm and Jordan Brothers Seafood will both be returning to the market. Vendor's applications are being reviewed and we will be adding additional vendors soon.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the farmers' market, please contact co-managers, Alison Galley (alison1956@verizon.net) and Eve Potts (evempotts@gmail.com.)

Like us on Facebook! We will be updating information there all season long.



Church Office Reminders



Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. (Except for this month – it will be on May 22nd.)

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



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 Firstparishmedfield.org and click on the link at the bottom of any page!

Food Cupboard Donations Needed



The Medfield Food Cupboard thanks you for your on-going support. Your continued efforts help us to maintain a huge service that would be so difficult to maintain without your generosity.

The following are the Medfield Food Cupboard current needs:

Juice (large and boxes)
Raisins
Fruit (cans, fruit bowls)
PB
Jelly

Beef Stew
Hot cereal packets
Canned Chicken
White Rice
Kid Friendly cereal

Cookies/Salty snacks
Sloppy Joes
Drink Mixes

FPUU Calendar of Events for May

Sunday, May 1	COA/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, May 3	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Sunday May 8	Mother's Day Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House Youth Group/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, May 10	Brown Bag Lunch/12:00 pm/Minister's Office
Saturday, May 14	Medfield Spring Plant Sale/Vestry/9:00-1200
Sunday, May 15	Annual Meeting/11:30/Sanctuary Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/2:00 pm/Vestry HOWL/7-9:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, May 17	COSM/7:00 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, May 19	Executive Board Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Friday, May 20	Family Friendly Movie Night/7:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, May 21	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day/8-12:00 pm
Sunday, May 22	Newsletter Deadline COA Field Trip to Lucy Stone
Saturday, May 28	Espresso Yourself Coffee House/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day/Office Closed

