



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*

June Newsletter 2016

From the Minister

Dear First Parish folks,

This month is the end of my three-year ministry with you. It's an excellent month to finish, partly out of cultural habit, but also because the change of season, the turn to summer, is a natural time to step back.

So now, we say goodbye. And saying goodbye *well* is important, because it allows each of us to then fully turn and face the future. For me, that will certainly involve some fun and travel this summer, and beyond that, a time of discernment.

For you, it involves an interim minister, David Chandler, who will arrive with energy and expertise in August. So my prayer is that you will be ready to embrace him and the work he will help you to do.

Now, as those of you who have lost someone you love probably know, a “good” goodbye involves several steps. A good goodbye includes saying “thank you”, “I’m sorry”, “I forgive you”, “I love you”, and finally, “goodbye”.

So thank you, good people of First Parish. I have learned so much from being with you. I learned things about myself, and about ministry. And I am very grateful that together we could do some good, including bringing a more intentional focus to guiding ourselves by love, and being better able to honor the different theologies and perspectives within the congregation.

I hope you will be able to forgive me if I have hurt you in any way over the past three years. At times I have been impatient and less than tactful, too sure of my self. I have taken what you said sometimes less gracefully than I could have, or forgotten to check in with someone or a group when trying to achieve a goal. Sometimes, I have not held you accountable when I should have.

It’s hard to know exactly what a minister’s job is. Here, I discovered there was a mismatch between my own sense of ministerial role and authority, and that of the congregation taken as a whole. So there have probably been times when I have taken on tasks that from your perspective didn’t belong to me; though this was done out of a sense of responsibility and a desire to see this congregation succeed, it wasn’t always the right thing to do. I have also probably pushed you on some things more than I should have, encouraging you to do things before you were quite ready.

So for any way in which I have hurt you, I’m sorry.

I also want you all to know something else -- for the things that some of you have said or done that were hurtful to me, I forgive you. We are all just human, never perfect.

Most importantly, I want to tell you that I love you. You have been a joy to be with in so many ways. Caring, challenging, creative, flexible, welcoming to diverse kinds of people, willing to learn, willing to teach, interested in growing spiritually, appreciative of each other in times of grief, stress or loss. This congregation comes together to support each other in times of pastoral need, and that is a wonderful, important, beautiful thing.

I am glad to have walked this path with you for the past 3 years. And it is also true that starting very soon – my last service is June 19th -- we will no longer be a part of each other’s lives. I will no longer be your minister, and you will no longer be my congregation. Because of strict rules about what ministers must do when they leave congregations, I will need to be completely absent from the life of this congregation. Sometime before the end of June you and I will say goodbye.

If I will not see you in church or at the goodbye event at Louise Rachin and Duncan Glover’s house on May 18, please get in touch with me if you’d like to meet before I go. And for those of you I won’t see before I leave, thank you and goodbye.

Many blessings on your journeys,
Rev. Meg

Executive Board Committee Notes

Dear Members and Friends:

May has been a month of farewells and new beginnings.

In only three years, Rev. Meg has left a deep imprint on our community, and we owe her thanks for the many gifts she has brought to us. Two farewell events are being planned for June 18 and 19, the last weekend of regular church service. Look for an invitation soon!

And yet, change also means a new beginning, an opportunity to look at ourselves again with new eyes and to move forward together. We have found an interim minister for the next two years, the Rev. David W. Chandler, who will be joining us on August 16. Here is what I wrote to you in my e-mail of May 20:

It was encouraging to see the high quality of the six applicants we had, who told us what they saw in us: an attractive church in a great community, with burgeoning church activities for continuing fellowship and fun. All five people we interviewed were quite interested in us, but David stood out as the best fit for our congregation. He brings an interesting professional background: a native of Pennsylvania, he graduated from college in 1971, already a music promoter and freelance writer, and he went on to become co-founder of a non-commercial radio station in Madison, Wisconsin, and co-publisher of a newsmagazine; he served as assistant to the mayor of Madison for six years and, after moving back to the East Coast, co-managed a family business until 2001, when he joined the Lancaster Theological Seminary in

Lancaster, PA. He graduated in 2004 and was ordained by the Unitarian Church in Harrisburg, PA in 2005. Since then, he has served as a contract minister (in Colledgeville, PA), a full-time settled minister (in Saco and Biddeford, ME) and, most recently, as an interim in Tamworth, NH. We look forward to having him join us this fall.

At its next scheduled meeting on June 16, the Executive Board will appoint a transition team of trusted and experienced church members that will support the interim minister as he settles into his role in Medfield. We are asking for nominations and self-nominations: please send them to Rich Mastronardi at rmastrona@aol.com.

I would like to thank the hard-working members of the Executive Board for all the tasks they accomplished and the challenges they tackled this past church year. Extra thanks belong to the interim taskforce (Darline, Rich, and Margaret as chair) for pulling together all the information for our successful application and for spending all those hours interviewing candidates. And, once again, to Rev. Meg for coaching us all along to become a more effective board.

I also thank all the church members who attended the May 15 congregational meeting. What we discussed and decided should motivate us to look forward, to address the challenges we face, to stand together, and to renew our commitment to being the community we envision. See you in church!

Fritz
Fritz Fleischmann, Chair, Executive Board

From the Religious Education Committee

The RE program is coming to a celebratory end - but the committee is already making plans for 2016-2017! Coming in the fall: new "Spirit Play" materials! Medfield Day Fun! A new OWL group! An "open house" with the committee and our RE Coordinator, Samantha! And, of course... a family pot-luck supper!!! We thank all our families for sharing your children with us - we learn, and grow, right along with them every time we are together. And we also thank our First Parish and surrounding community for their support. Please join us on the Religious Education Committee - we'd love some fresh eyes, new thoughts - everyone is welcome!

A few personal thank yous -

- ❖ Lizzie Bryant for arranging childcare providers for Little Lights Sunday mornings - and for our congregational meetings and mission workshops even when we forgot to give her the dates...
- ❖ Becca Kornet has been so exceptional at organizing Neighboring Faiths along with everything else she does...
- ❖ Chris Flaherty has been talking about sex and respect for 12 years with me, SO many Sundays, still has a sense of humor, and will even do a little song and dance with me occasionally...
- ❖ Arnold Kalmbach kindly let me join our Youth Group and has quietly taught me that many times, doing "nothing" is really doing "something" very important...
- ❖ John Kornet, who takes my garbled inarticulate emails and decodes them into appropriate sentences, and who knows how to wield a calendar... and
- ❖ David Maxson, who is fond of breaking brains with deep thoughts and who has helped our young people Come of Age for a decade.
- ❖ Also, Samantha Nemeth, for trusting me to become our RE Coordinator, and for having fun doing it...
- ❖ And, especially, all our participants, from Little Lights to high school seniors.

This year, we have 6 high school graduates (some from First Parish, some from other religious communities), and it's been amazing being with them. Lizzie Bryant, Adam D'Abate, Evan Gavrilles, Jack Kornet, Allie Newlon, & Nate Schwartz, best wishes, congratulations, and thank you for sharing years of Sunday nights with us! We'll have a bridging ceremony during the service on 6/19 for our FP seniors, with some help from our k-6 and NF participants.

June also brings our Coming of Age service on 6/5. It is an amazing morning - our young people, growing and seeking and articulating their important thoughts, and sharing in the safe space our First Parish family provides. Our participants and their mentors this year are:

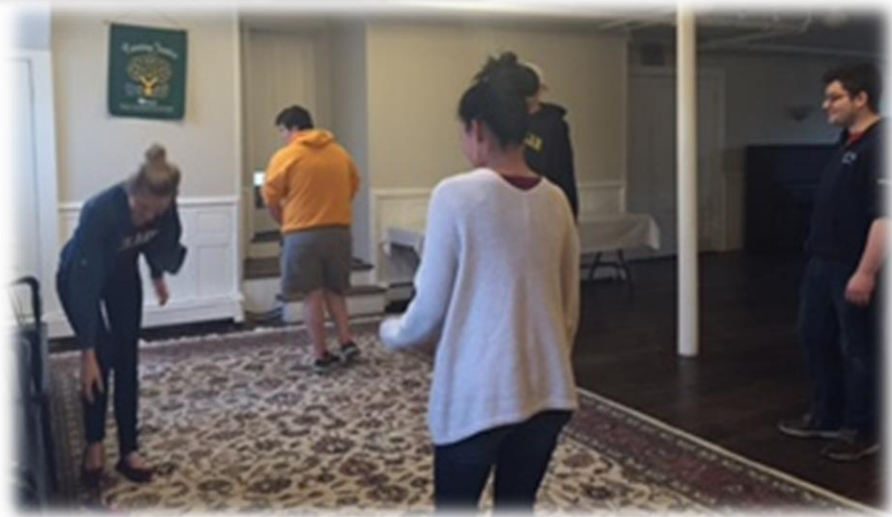
Jane D'Abate and Jen Bartle
Molly Drumm and Karen Wians
Lian Galley and Chris Flaherty
Rachel Kornet and Eva Conley-Kendrick
Gabe Springer and Chris Conley

Have a blessed (and fun!) summer!
Cissy Hull-Allen

Youth Group



In May, the YG played hacky sack while waiting for their cookies to bake, then they decorated them - mmm!



The High School OWL Group



Coming of Age visits Dog Town!



Coming of Age at the Lucy Stone House



Farmers' Market to Start on June 2nd!



The Medfield Farmers' Market will return to the grounds of our Church for a 6th season on **Thursday, June 2nd from 2:00 to 6:30 pm and will continue each Thursday through September 22nd.**

Ward's Berry Farm, Jordan Brothers Seafood and Medfield Maple will all be returning and we are finalizing our other vendors at this time.

Eve Potts and Alison Galley, Market Managers

More information can be found by visiting our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. You could also email us at admin@firstparishmedfield.org.



From the Green Sanctuary Committee



It has been an honor to work with the members of the Green Sanctuary Committee this year, and I appreciate everyone's efforts. This year, we have organized 5 services, cosponsored 3 public events, and created a TV series on Medfield TV. We have attended at least 3 workshops, 4 conferences, 2 rallies, 1 protest, 2 legislative action days, 1 governmental hearing, and 4 film screenings. We have taught environmental courses, given talks, and organized a Medfield-wide anti-idling coalition that has created anti-idling signs, posters, videos, and flyers. We go to meetings of other

organizations. We study FPUU's carbon footprint. And we keep you informed about the problems of climate change.

I want to acknowledge this work the committee does. It can be time-consuming but it is worth it. Besides, our Friday monthly meetings are fun. We start with an incredibly wonderful potluck dinner while we catch up with each other. After filling ourselves, we dedicate ourselves to an hour of self-education on environmental issues, sharing news, insights, and activities of individual members as well as planning public events. Tasks are self-assigned by whoever has the time and energy to carry them out. Our group works as a fellowship with an open structure and always welcomes new members. We hope you join us.

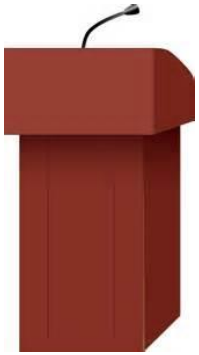


You're Invited to Come Say Good-bye
To Reverend Meg
And
To Celebrate Our Three Years of Shared
Ministry

At the home of
Louise Rachin & Duncan Glover
11 King Philip Trail
Norfolk, MA 02056
On Saturday, June 18th
From 2:30 - 4:00

There will also be a farewell reception in
the vestry after our last service on Sunday,
June 19th.

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.

Digitizing First Parish Records



I wanted to let everyone know that we have taken the first steps to digitize and put on line some of the historic documents of First Parish. You can view these by going to this site:

<https://archive.org/details/firstparishmedfield>

The two volumes which are now available are records of the Prudential Committee spanning the years from November, 1939 to September, 1947; and a volume of "some events" from 1869 - 1871. Several more volumes will be placed on line in the near future.

The work was done by Digital Commonwealth, a service of the Boston Public Library and provided at no cost to us. I want to take this opportunity to thank Digital Commonwealth for this service.

If you have any questions about this, please do let me know.

Dan Bibel,
Archivist

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.



Save the Date: Family Movie Night – Friday, June 17th



Join us in watching a family friendly movie on Friday, Jun 17th – More information to follow.

Notes from the Church Office:



Please note that from June 19th 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

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!**

FPUU Calendar of Events for June

Wednesday, June 1	COSM/7:00 PM/Minister's Office
Thursday, June 2	Season's First Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30PM/Grounds
Tuesday, June 7	Pastoral Care Meeting/7:15 PM/U-House
Thursday, June 9	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30PM/Grounds
Sunday, June 12	Chalice Circle/4:00 PM/U-House Youth Group/7:00 PM/Vestry
Thursday, June 16	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30pm/Grounds Executive Board Meeting/7:30 PM/U-House
Friday, June 17	Family Friendly Movie Night/7:00 PM/Vestry
Saturday, June 18	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day
Sunday, June 19	Last service before summer hiatus Father's Day Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/2:00 PM/Vestry
Thursday, June 23	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30pm/Grounds
Thursday, June 30	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6:30pm/Grounds

Have a wonderful summer!

Our In-gathering Sunday service will be held on September 11, 2016