

*First Parish Unitarian  
Universalist of  
Medfield*

26 North Street, Medfield,  
MA

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## January Newsletter 2016

### The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

I may have introduced the “rhubarb, rhubarb” concept a little prematurely, but the burden of congregational life – any congregation – is that people will insist on saying their piece.

This is a good thing by and large, and is essential to the successful interim process. If you don't come to some shared agreement about where you are and how you got here, you will be unlikely to find a broadly acceptable path to take you forward. Thus the next stage is Conversations – call them One, Two and Three.

Conversation One will be Sunday, Jan. 22 beginning at 11:30 in the Sanctuary. All members and friends are welcome. I will facilitate – plan on 40 minutes to an hour on the focus topic and then 15 or 20 minutes of any interim comment you wish to make. The focus for this first Conversation is to follow up on perspectives voiced at the “Thinking About the Interim” congregational discussion on Dec. 11. An “open mic” format will give everyone room to speak and also to listen: How we feel now about our community? What do we need to do for FPUU to move ahead with the search process?

The invitation is simple – if you care, then come and share. We all agree to listen.

Conversation Two will be Sunday, Feb. 5. The focus will be on Worship and Ministry, and I will lead a discussion of how these “work” in a UU church, and how you want them to work for you, as an individual and a congregation. There is no hard and fast way to do either one of these, so again it is important to hear each other’s ideas.

We will use the same format – 40-60 minutes on the topic and 15-20 minutes for interim open mic – for Conversation Two and for Conversation Three, which will be Sunday, Feb. 12. The focus will be on Mission and Community, and the Transition Team will lead without me present. This is a feature, not a bug, because these vital areas of church life belong to you no matter what the minister may be doing. Plan to join us.

Best wishes, Rev. David

## Upcoming Services

Sunday – Jan. 1

**“Reflections and Preflections”**

Greg Beedy

Come to the vestry to share what you plan to do, read or think about as you move forward into 2017, and enjoy special New Year’s refreshments. **No RE or child care.**

Sunday – Jan. 8

**“A Janus Service”**

Rev. David W. Chandler

The holidays fade, the New Year begins, the depth of winter approaches – and our feelings may be ambivalent. Rituals of Endings and Beginnings will help us let go of what must now be past and welcome our hopes and dreams for 2017. **Religious Ed.**

Sunday – Jan. 15

**“Grievous Angels”**

Rev. David W. Chandler

Lincoln famously called upon the “better angels” of our human nature. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. insisted against all odds they are real and will prevail. On this MLK Sunday we may well wonder where they went – or if they even exist anywhere at all. **Religious Ed.**

Sunday – Jan. 22

**“In Us We Trust?”**

Rev. David W. Chandler

Trust is the co-efficient of any functional community. Even in church there is no trust by happenstance or the miraculous. It must be constructed deliberately. Do I trust myself in our religious community? Ask yourself first, and then listen to each other. **Religious Ed.**

Sunday – Jan. 29

**All-Comers Poetry Sunday**

Louise Rachin

An FPUU favorite service returns – recite one, read one, sing and dance one if you have the nerve. All the poetry around and within us gets a time to blossom. **No Religious Ed.**

## Executive Board Notes



Dear Members and Friends:

The Executive Board had its last meeting of the year on December 15. Among the things we discussed were the following:

(1) The discussion at the December 11 meeting about the transition process, when quite a few members expressed an urgent desire to have conversations about healing from this past year's events. Rev. David shared that this had already been discussed by the Transition Team at its meeting on December 13, and that it would also be taken up by the Committee on Shared Ministry in January. The Board discussed some of the ways in which these necessary conversations could be organized, including small-group conversations in a variety of settings, and the already scheduled meetings on January 22, February 5 and February 12, at which we'll talk about getting ready for a new ministerial search: what we need to do as a congregation to move forward in our interim process toward finding a settled minister?

(2) We mapped our own meetings for the rest of the church year. We have a great deal of work to do before the annual meeting on June 4, including (but not limited to) creating a budget for FY18; meeting with the UUA's Ministerial Settlement Representative; managing nominations for the ministerial search committee (to be voted on at the annual meeting); evaluating the interim minister; reviewing our By-

Laws and our fragmentary Policies and Procedures document (especially with a view toward creating consistent personnel policies); working with the Green Sanctuary Committee toward accreditation; supporting the Annual Pledge Drive Committee's plans for this year's scheduled pledge events; working with the Nominating Committee on staffing the EB for next year.

(3) We also discussed the need to strengthen the Buildings and Grounds and the Religious Education committees. Since then, the need for additional members on Buildings and Grounds has become glaringly evident by the U House furnace fire on December 17, which required an all-hands-on-deck effort, directed by Fred Bunger, to secure and monitor the building during a period of freezing temperatures, to deal with plumbing contractors and insurance adjusters, and to communicate with the Board and the congregation about the incident. I am most grateful to Fred, the outgoing chair of Buildings and Grounds, and to all who took a part in this effort.

People really responded to the call – but we do need more people to call!



As Rev. David reminded us at the semi-annual meeting on December 4, we are not only a fiscally viable, but also a competent and committed congregation. Let us stand together in these challenging days, to find warmth and support in our beloved community.

With all good wishes for the New Year,  
*Fritz*



# EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

Presents our first ever...  
New Year's Eve Dance Party  
with First Parish's own Larger Circle Band!



**When: Saturday, December 31st  
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Where: First Parish Vestry**

**What: An evening of open mic stories, songs and poems  
Plus...Dancing to the international tunes of the Larger Circle Band.  
Plus... Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and desserts, cash bar  
Plus... More fun than you could possibly have at home on the couch!**

Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

Contact: Linda Finkle @ [Lindainwinthrop@gmail.com](mailto:Lindainwinthrop@gmail.com) or 603-918-0848





## Youth Schedule for January

### Our Whole Lives

OWL for 8th and 9th graders will begin Sunday evening, January 8th, at 7 pm. Other dates in January are 1/15 and 1/29.

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## Transition Team Notes

Greetings from your Transition Team: Greg Beedy, Phil Burr, John Kornet, Shirley Riga, Karen Wians and our Interim Minister, Rev. David W. Chandler.

The role of the Transition Team is to work closely with Rev. David during our interim ministry to move successfully toward a new search and calling our next settled minister in 2018.

On Sunday, Dec. 11, following the morning service, Rev. David led a meeting to provide the congregation with information about the transition process and timeline. Members of the congregation voiced feelings and sentiments about issues and experiences that have divided us in recent years. The Transition Team met on Dec. 13 and agreed we need to discuss these issues more deeply and renew our community relationships including the Black Lives Matter banner email discussion and Rev. Meg's ministry and subsequent departure. This is vital to identifying who we are as a congregation and get started on the search process.

We welcome all members and friends to participate in a 3-part series of Conversations on Jan. 22, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12. Rev. David will facilitate the first session on Jan. 22, with an "open mic" format to give everyone room to speak and listen about how we feel now and what we may need to do to feel ready to go ahead. Given what we heard at the Dec. 11 discussion, we especially hope members and friends who may not be here regularly for Sunday Services but care about our congregational life will attend on Jan. 22. We need to hear each other encourage healing in our community and be ready to move forward.

The Feb. 5 Conversation will focus on Worship and Ministry. Feb. 12, we will focus on Mission and Community. All are welcome to attend and participate as we share our hopes and questions about what we want and need from our minister in these vital areas.

Please feel free to contact any one of us on the Transition Team for more information.

## Green Sanctuary Committee



The year 2016 has ended and will likely be the hottest year on record. We at the Green Sanctuary Committee work at trying to be part of the solution, and not the problem.

We have worked with the Medfield Police to bring community awareness to anti-idling laws and they will be installing 12 more anti-idling signs around the town. We have been working with Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light to reduce our energy use. A very important action we can all take is to make sure the door between the vestry and the upstairs stays shut. That way, we can all stay warm and not unnecessarily run the furnace.

In the wider community, there have been record additions of renewable energy around the world (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century).



Join us to learn more and to keep informed.

And enjoy a great potluck dinner! For more information, contact Thea Iberall at [theaiberall@yahoo.com](mailto:theaiberall@yahoo.com).



## 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](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator



## January Flower Donations

January 1 – None Needed

January 8 – Jessica Razza

January 15 – Sara Drumm

January 22 – Jessica Razza

January 29 – Jessica Razza

## Coffee Hour Host Schedule

January 1 Open

January 8 Louise Rachin

January 15 Richard Mastronardi

January 22 Margaret Rolph

January 29 Open



Please see the sign-up sheet in the vestry or contact Mary Corthell if you are interested in hosting open coffee hours.

# Chalice Circle

by Shirley Riga

On the second Sunday of each month at 4pm – 5:30pm Chalice Circle meets at the U-House. It is not a closed group and is open to everyone. Feel free to let me know you're coming once the notice appears on Agora. Still come even if you don't let me know.

I get inspiration for topics through the UU Small Group Ministry Network Website. This month's topic was **Change** taken from the UU Fellowship of Stony Brook, NY in March of 2013 by Rev. Margie Allen and Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson.

"What a love/hate relationship we humans have with change! When our lives are happy and full, we want things to stay just as they are: like teenagers in love, we can't imagine our feelings ever changing. When life is messy and difficult, we pray that change will come soon, but find it hard to believe that it ever will. And in both cases the inevitable force of change rolls on, introducing some bittersweet into the happiness; some peace and joy into the despair."

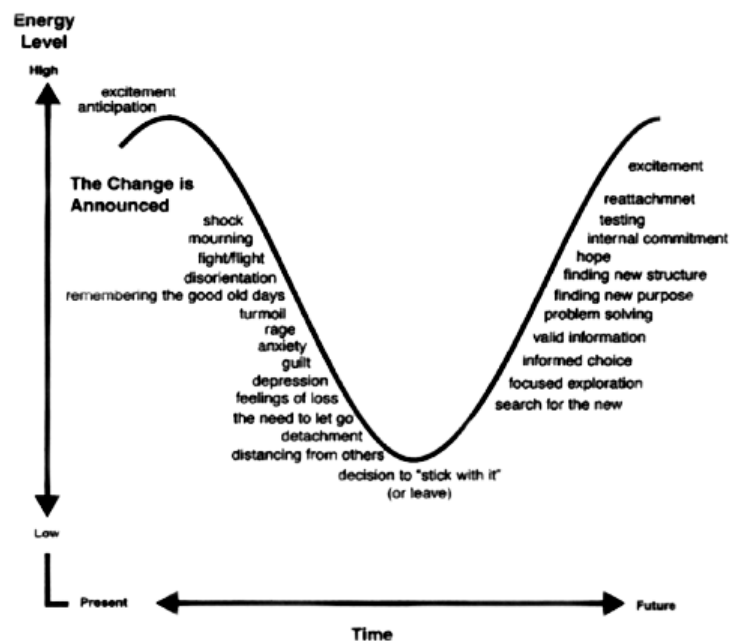
"Some of us take to change naturally, gladly, seeing excitement and interesting challenges in new situations. Others find change unsettling, disruptive, something to be avoided if at all possible – and slowed down if it can't be avoided. But change can often operate on its own time schedule, and at those times we can neither hasten it nor delay it to suit our own purposes."

"How do we develop a relationship with change that allows for graceful acceptance, while giving us room to explore our feelings? How do we craft a rooted yet flexible approach to life that invites change in without risking our integrity? Here is

where we start, in our sacred circle of trust, where we are free to explore our own path and learn from the paths of others."

The Roller Coaster of Change (Gil Rendle), *Adapted from Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders*, copyright © 1998 by the Alban Institute.

"The roller coaster of change is a model that identifies a natural sequence of feelings and relationships that are a part of change. It was first adapted from Ralph G. Hirschowitz by Susan Hassinger, a United Methodist bishop."



Hope these thoughts are helpful and offer some comfort in these challenging times of change.

## Christmas Eve Candle Light Service Donation



We are pleased to announce that a total of \$553.00 was split between The Medfield Food Cupboard and the Greater Boston Food Bank following the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service.

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## Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange



If you are using Amazon.com, you can help support First Parish! To order on Amazon, please use this link: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/firstparisuuch01> First Parish will receive about 5% of what you order and will not cost you anything!!! (One important note - if you had items in your Amazon 'shopping basket' before using this link, First Parish won't get the benefit of your shopping. Only items placed in the shopping basket AFTER clicking the above link help)



Equal Exchange only sells "Fair Trade" products - by dealing directly with small farmers and co-ops, they insure that the growers and producers get a fair market price for their products - and you get some of the best produce at a reasonable price. First Parish adds 15% to the Equal Exchange price, so your purchase also helps to support the work of the church. For information on ordering from Equal Exchange, click on this link:

<http://www.firstparishmedfield.org/cms/component/content/article/45-amazon/76-ee>

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## The Medfield Food Cupboard



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. These are the current needs:

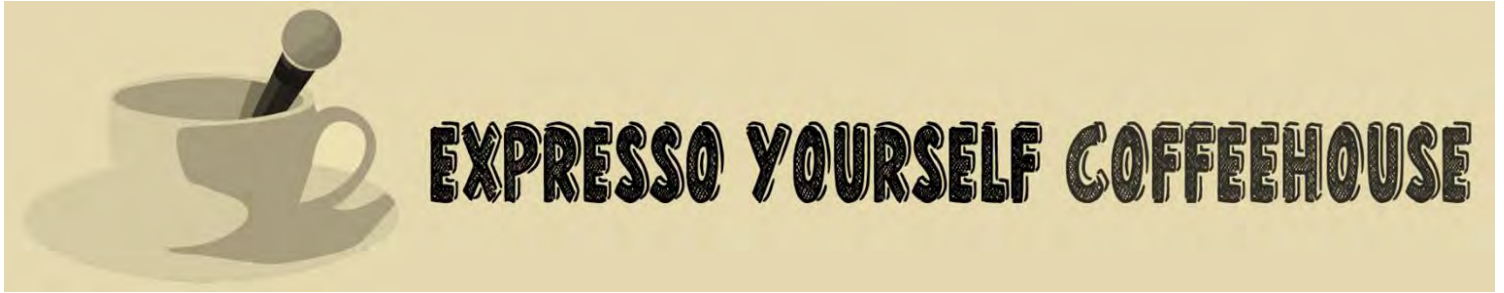
Canned Chili  
Rice  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly

Large juice  
Juice boxes  
Canned peaches and pears  
Snacks  
Pasta sauce

Kid friendly cereal /Raisin Bran/  
Special K

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.





**Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse returns with new themes for a New Year!**

When: Saturday, January 28th, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: The Vestry

What: Open Mic and a Great featured Performer

Plus: Complimentary coffee and goodies courtesy of Starbucks of Medfield

Suggested Donation: \$5 adults, \$3 students

Theme: Rainbow Grace

### **Who is the Featured Performer??**

**Rev. Cindy Maybeck**, the storytelling minister, has over 25 years of experience telling stories in the pulpit. In 2013, she launched *Spirit Story*, a ministry to bring her original story presentations into the church and the community to provide inspiration, healing and hope. She has ministerial standing in the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ. Her humorous and poignant stories range across topics of a Civil Rights pilgrimage and life in the ministry. You'll be transfixed. [www.cindymaybeck.com](http://www.cindymaybeck.com)



# FPUU Calendar of Events

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday, January 1     | New Year's Day-Lay-led Service  |
| Monday, January 2     | The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry   |
| Tuesday, January 3    | Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House                                     |
| Sunday, January 8     | Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House<br>OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry                                |
| Monday, January 9     | The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry   |
| Wednesday, January 11 | Committee on Shared Ministry/7:00 pm/U-House  |
| Thursday, January 12  | Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry                                    |
| Sunday, January 15    | Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/2:00 pm/Vestry<br>OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry                      |
| Monday, January 16    | Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Office Closed<br>The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry   |
| Thursday, January 19  | Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House   |
| Friday, January 20    | Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Offsite                                   |
| Saturday, January 21  | NewLife Home Refurnishings/Volunteer Day  |
| Sunday, January 22    | Interim One/11:30 am/Sanctuary<br>Youth Group/7:00 pm/Vestry<br>Newsletter Deadline |
| Monday, January 23    | The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry   |
| Wednesday, January 25 | Membership Meeting/7:30 pm/Offsite  |
| Saturday, January 28  | Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry  |
| Sunday, January 29    | OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry  |
| Monday, January 30    | The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry   |

