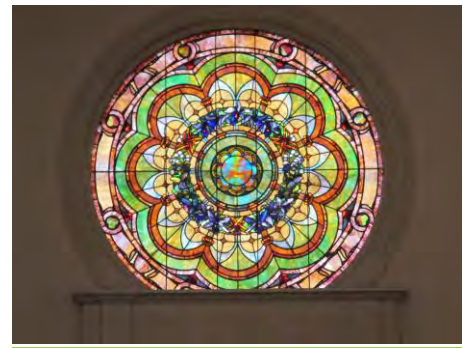


First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield,
MA

(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org



March 2017 Newsletter

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

We get spring this month. There are no guarantees on the weather, but Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 AM on Sunday, Mar. 12. Set your clock AHEAD one hour, or you'll be late for Sunday services! I usually spot folks from the pulpit, but I won't be leading worship that day, so maybe you will get lucky and nobody will notice.

The first day of spring is Mar. 20, and that will happen, also no matter what. It is a dead lock bulbs will be up, at least in the sunny spots and at least the ones that can take frost and snow. The day before, Sunday, Mar. 19, will be our Annual Fund Drive Sunday. Fill in your own church metaphor. Yes, we do come up every spring, at first in the sunny spots. Yes, we can take some frost and snow. We have to remind ourselves of this and it is also a very good time to thank everyone who makes this church happen. That

means everyone – because every member of this congregation is essential to its well-being. YOU are essential to our well-being. I hope you feel the same way about your church. Now is the time we act together to make it go for another year. If we don't, it won't.

By the time you read this, another spring will have appeared – Cindy Spring, the UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative assigned to help with our, umm, ministerial settlement. Occasionally the UUA does say exactly what it means. Cindy is from the Plymouth, NH congregation, and chaired their Search Committee

that settled a new minister last August. She will meet with your Executive Board on Feb. 25 and with the congregation at 11:30, after worship, on Sunday, Feb. 26. All members and friends are welcome. I'm excited that Cindy will speak as a layperson. She wants to explain and answer questions so well that every member feels able to consider being on the Search Committee.

This is exactly right. Search is not an "old-timer" prerogative. It is an "I care about my church" prerogative. Experience is welcome, but so is new perspective and energy. We need yours.

Best wishes, Rev. David

(Photo by Sara Drumm)



From the Worship and Music Committee



Please join us on Sunday, March 12 for our "Why I am at First Parish" service. This well-loved service features members of the congregation sharing what being a part of First Parish means to them. This year's speakers are Susan Stromgren, Linda Finkle, Phil Burr, and Don Rolph. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Services

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday, March 5 In the long tail of winter, spring is already beginning. There are likewise seasons of renewal in our church, just as in our lives. Understanding how these are linked helps us to see the cycles of each. Now we must be ready and willing to sprout. Religious Ed. | "Sending Up Sprouts" | Rev. David W. Chandler |
| Sunday, March 12 Religious Ed. | "Why I Am at First Parish" | Worship and Music Committee |
| Sunday, March 19 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE SUNDAY will kick off our campaign to support the church over the coming year. The key to a successful relationship – with a new called minister and with each other – is making good choices about who we are – and how. Religious Ed. | "Mission Unpredictable" | Rev. David W. Chandler |
| Sunday, March 26 Who we want to be and who we are, how we want the world to be and how it is, how we want others to act and what they actually – all are everyday gaps. To get across, we have to see the gulf at our feet and focus on the UU values that form the bridge. Religious Ed. | "Mind the Gap" | Rev. David W. Chandler |

Notes from the Executive Board

Dear Members and Friends:



The Executive Board had its second meeting of the year on February 16.

(1) The focus of the meeting was the first draft of a new budget

for 2017-18: once again with a projected deficit and no projected contribution to the capital needs fund. We all agreed that we should make every effort this year to balance the budget and invest more to maintain our buildings. The "evergreen list" of deferred maintenance keeps growing, and we simply have to face the reality that

we need to spend more in order not to lose what we have.

This is also the year in which a new ministerial search committee will begin the work of reaching out to find us a settled minister. We need to decide on the scope of this position (full-time or less?), and figure out the best way to position ourselves as an attractive congregation. The pledges we make and the budget we will be able to vote on will be an important aspect of this positioning.

- (2) Among the monthly reports on the work of our various committees, I shared some of the work that has been going on to support the Buildings and Grounds Committee, whose chair, Fred Bunger, will withdraw from this role at the end of this church year. While his shoes are impossible to fill, it had also become clear to me that those shoes are unreasonably big to begin with – the workload needs to be carried by more shoulders, by a larger committee, just as Buildings and Grounds as a whole needs more support from the congregation (on which more below). I was happy to report to the Board that Greg Beedy and Dan Bibel have agreed to serve as co-chairs for the time being and that five new members have agreed to join the existing committee (Dawn Amaral, Wesleigh Behn, Fred Bunger, David Maxson, Eve Potts, Nate Razza): Sara Drumm, Bill Harvey, John Kornet, Clayton Springer, and David Temple. My thanks to all these caring

members who have agreed, as their time permits, to help with the maintenance of our facilities, especially our historic church building.

While this gift of time is a necessary condition for our ability to maintain our place, it is by no means a sufficient condition: see item (1) above.

- (3) The Board approved the final version of our six-month appraisal for our interim minister, for submission to the UUA Transitions Office.
- (4) We continued the work of reviewing parts of our by-laws that deal with the calling and dismissal of ministers. This had been suggested by Rev. David, who was concerned that some of our present language might be a deterrent to potential candidates for settled ministry. We expect to conclude this work at our March meeting and will then distribute a proposal for discussion and consideration at our annual meeting.

If you haven't already signed up for one of the small suppers on March 11 or 18, please do so without delay. And **please come to church on March 19**, our Annual Pledge Drive Sunday, when Rev. David will explain his own perspective on our capacity to be a meaningful, successful and fiscally stable congregation.

Thank you all for being in our community.

Fritz

For our Young People



Here's what's happening in March!

OWL (Our Whole Lives sexuality program) for grades 8-9: OWL will meet at 7:00 pm in the Vestry on March 5th, 12th and 19th.

Youth Group for grades 10-12: The youth group will meet on Sunday, March 26th at 7:00 pm in the Vestry.

Farmers' Market Manager Needed



Wanted: Farmers' Market manager. To contact new vendors for 2017 and also each week to put up and take down market's signs and be there every Thursday afternoon. Can be one or two separate jobs. Thanks to Needham bank, our sponsors, this is a paying job or jobs. For more details contact Eve Potts 508 359 6581

Small Suppers -You're Invited! March 11 and March 18:

The pleasure of your company is requested at one of several intimate small suppers in the homes of First Parish members, beginning at 7:00 PM Saturday, Mar. 11 or Saturday, Mar. 18. Families are welcome. Babysitting will be provided. To make a reservation for the evening of your choice, contact Mary Corthell, 617-429-4199 or mecor4@gmail.com. Kindly RSVP by Sunday, Mar. 5.



2017-18 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

We hope that you will join us for the *Annual Fund Drive Service* on Sunday March 19 and then be a part of our *Commitment Sunday Service* on April 2, wherein we will submit our pledges and renew our shared commitment to this church and the principles that bind us together.

In preparation, we invite you to reflect on First Parish and how it touches your life. Our purpose, our commitment is to be a truly loving community in which we explore our spiritual understandings while working to make the world a green, safe and welcoming place.

We know that now more than ever, our church matters in our lives. We need our relationships of sharing and caring, of reflection and inspiration, of music and words. We need our good work in the community and the world, sharing and standing up for UU values. We know now more than ever, we need each other.

Your financial support is vital. Our congregation is entirely responsible for funding the church's expenses. Here is a pledge guideline:

How Much Should You Pledge?

Your pledge in any amount is greatly appreciated. However, the UUA Fair Share Guide is a helpful resource for determining your pledge amount. The financial commitment levels in the Guide are suggestions, with a starting point of 2% of adjusted income for congregants earning up to \$1,000 per month, with giving levels rising with capacity as follows:

- **Supporter:** The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my income and rises to 6% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Sustainer:** The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation. My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my income and rises to 7% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Visionary:** My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my income and rises to 9% as my income and capacity rise.
- **Transformer:** I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my income.

We believe that if all of us pledged a minimum of 2% of our household incomes we would balance our budget. Last year (2016-17), the total pledge was \$100,790 from 49 households. The average pledge was \$2,057. This year, we can balance the 2017-18 budget with \$5,000 funding of capital reserves if the average pledge is increased by 15% to \$2,366.

Kind Regards,

Annual Fund Drive Committee: Mary Corthell,
Chris Flaherty Marshall Sugarman

Green Sanctuary Committee



Martin Luther King said, "All life is connected, tied to the garment of destiny. What affects one affects all." This is the UU 7th principle: respect for the interdependent web of all existence. This is the principle upon which the UU Green Sanctuary program is based. As we all know, that web of all existence is seriously threatened. A report issued by a UMASS professor says New England is warming faster than the rest of the country and by the year 2025 – 8 years from now – our region will cross the 3.6 degree threshold. What it will mean is the constancy of what we've experienced: frigid 5 degree temperatures and 8 inches of snow that disappears the next day in 55 degree heat. In the summer, it will mean months of days over 90 degrees. I was in Southern California experiencing days of 119 degrees. And I remember thinking, the air is no longer something to ignore. It felt like a threat, it felt oppressive, and there was nowhere to run.

There are things we can do to slow down climate change. Who will do it? The founder of the Interfaith Power and Light says, "Religious voices are going to be the agent of change." They are working with 18,000 congregations. First Parish is one of them.

The UUA began the Green Sanctuary program to raise consciousness and generate commitment to community action. Two years ago, FPUU became a Green Sanctuary Candidate with an ambitious 14-point plan. We've had much success with our projects. Our goal this year is to become a UU Green Sanctuary congregation. Another goal is to triple membership in the Green Sanctuary Committee so that the committee is too large to sit around Fritz's and Katrin's dining room table. Please join us so that you can help your family. Food, friendship, and living our values through spiritual connection and education. Doesn't get much better. [Theaiberall@yahoo.com](mailto:theaiberall@yahoo.com).

Don't forget to set your
clocks ahead on March 12th!



Interested in Joining a Committee at First Parish?

Your friendly
MEMBERSHIP

Committee



Katrin Fischer (chair)

Allison Bryant

Kirsten D'Abate

Linda Finkle

Darline Lewis

Margaret Rolph

David Stephenson

JOIN US!



Saturday, March 25th at 7:00-9:00 PM

The Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse is an opportunity for spoken word artists to share their poetry, stories, and songs. It is held the last Saturday of every month at 7pm at First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Medfield, MA. Each month has a different theme. Our March theme is Shades of Blue. Our March theme is Shades of Blue.



Featuring Blues in the Corner

Blues in the Corner is an electrifying blues trio playing original and classic blues. The nucleus of the group features Eddie Love on blues harp and lead vocals and the songwriting duo of Stephen Stern on guitar and vocals, and Rudy Barajas on bass. They have performed all over Massachusetts wowing audiences wherever they go.

Open mic readers have 5 minutes to share. Original or non-original poetry, stories, performance art, music or songs welcome. Sticking to theme encouraged. Teens and adults welcome. Refreshments from Starbucks are served. Medfield TV films event and posts to You-tube. \$5 suggested donation (\$3 students).





We accept (in good condition):

- Antiques
- Collectables
- Small Furniture
- Sports Equipment
- Bikes
- Electronics
- CDS – DVDs
- Books
- Games
- Toys
- Kitchen Ware
- Knick-knacks
- Garden Items
- Tools
- Media
- Small appliances.

We CANNOT accept:

- TVs
- Computers
- Outdated Software
- Clothing
- Shoes
- Car Seats
- Bedding
- Sofa Beds
- Large Appliances

**FIRST PARISH INDOOR
YARD SALE**

**April 1, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Spring Cleaning?
Please set aside items for our
Yard Sale!**

PLEASE nothing broken, incomplete, or unsellable!

QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS? DONATIONS?
Email Katrin at MedfieldYardSale@gmail.com or leave a message
with Sandra in the church office: 508-359-4594.

**CAN YOU HELP WITH
THE YARD SALE?**

There is a sign-up sheet
posted in the vestry.



Flower Donations Thank You



Thank you to the following who provided flowers for the sanctuary last month.

February 5 - Ann Cunningham

February 12 - Kirsten D'Abate

February 19 - Margaret Rolph

February 26 - Karen Wians

We thank Kay Bennett for delegating flower donations for the sanctuary for the month of March. Please contact Kay if you would like to sign up to provide flowers on a Sunday morning in March.



Coffee Hour Hosts needed for March

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

Notes from the Church Office:

Please remember the following deadlines:



Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. **This month it is March 19th**

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



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>



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:

Chili (canned)
Beef Stew
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Fruit
Applesauce-6 packs
Pasta Sauce
PB
Jelly

Juice-Large and boxes
Cookies/Salty snacks
Kid Friendly Cereal

Thanks to the community's generosity, we are currently fully stocked on soup, pasta and canned green beans.



FPUU Calendar of Events for March

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, March 5 | Interim Three Conversation/11:30 am/Vestry OWL/7:30 pm/Vestry |
| Monday, February 6 | The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/U-House Medfield Historical Society/6:00 pm/Vestry |
| Tuesday, March 7 | Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House |
| Wednesday, March 8 | Committee on Shared Ministry/7:00 pm/U-House |
| Thursday, March 9 | Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry |
| Saturday, March 11 | Small Suppers/7:00 pm/Offsite |
| Sunday, March 12 | Pledge Drive Canvasser Training/11:30 am/U-House Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry |
| Monday, March 13 | The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry |
| Thursday, March 16 | Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House |
| Saturday, March 18 | NewLife Home Refurnishings/Volunteer Day Small Suppers/7:00 pm/Offsite |
| Sunday, March 19 | Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/2:00 pm/Vestry OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry Newsletter Deadline |
| Monday, March 20 | The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry |
| Saturday, March 25 | All Facilities Rented-Middle Ages Study/9:00-6:00 pm Expresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry |
| Sunday, March 26 | Youth Group/7:00 pm/Vestry |
| Monday, March 27 | The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry |
| Friday, March 31 | Yard Sale Set Up/Vestry |