



**First Parish
Unitarian Universalist
of Medfield**
26 North Street, Medfield, MA
(508) 359-4594
www.firstparishmedfield.org

*Rough Winds
do shake
the darling buds of May.*
- William Shakespeare

May 2017 Newsletter

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

"Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good." That pearl of practical wisdom occasionally goes missing in UU congregations. We are the "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" people – and proudly so. That's the Fourth Principle. The Fifth commits us to "the right of conscience...and democratic process within our congregations..."

Thus the Annual Meeting – an old New England custom embodied in our polity. We are a congregational polity, which makes members of

the church the shareholders and sovereigns of every aspect of community life. The gathered body of the church is the ultimate authority, including whom you call to be your spiritual leader. You decide what resources to make available for all church purposes spiritual, missional and practical. You decide who has your trust and carries the credibility to lead – in every activity.

I believe First Parish has every reason to see much good happening among you. As always in church life, there is no perfect. Your Annual Meeting won't reveal any, so don't let the search

for it drain your energy and optimism. As always, speak your truth – but also listen for the truth that rests in others. Don't be afraid to accept what seems good in the light of the common conscience.

You are ready to search for the truth and meaning that a new settled minister will bring. You will be asked to formally agree, by voting to enter the official Search Process. You will be asked to approve those in whom you have confidence for this challenging and rewarding task – the people who will be your Search Committee.

You will be asked, less formally but still very importantly, if you are ready to enter this process

with open minds, welcoming hearts and hopeful spirits. Just as no congregation is ever perfect, ministers don't come perfect either. But lots of ministers come in just-the-right-size, for you and for your future. There are many already good UU ministers and more than a few who are just waiting for the chance to be good when the right time and place opens up.

With hard work, your confidence and a little luck, your Search Committee will find the right one.

Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – May 7

“Too Soon Old”

Rev. David W. Chandler

...and too late smart,” is what the Pennsylvania Dutch say. It's true – most of the time we only learn the hard way. Might there be a few things we can pick up without the bruises, or ways to understand what we might at least need to know? **Religious Ed.**

Sunday – May 14

Music Sunday for All Ages

Music Director Eva Kendrick

Sunday – May 21

“Red Light, Green Light”

Rev. David W. Chandler

How best decide what is “right” for our community? What is “our community”? In fact, none of us is part of only one community, or even only one at a time. Our congregation is a busy intersection of communities. How do we manage the traffic? **Religious Ed.**

Sunday – May 28

“God's Best Friends”

Rev. David W. Chandler

Ethical and moral conundrums are everywhere in human life – that is a core UU belief. The constant human task is to choose and do what is right. Maybe we should consider there is also a larger frame – an endeavor in harmony with the divine. **No Religious Ed.**

Notes from the Executive Board



Dear Members and Friends:

The Executive Board met again on April 20. The main items of discussion

were the annual fund drive and the prospective budget for next year; other topics were religious education, the farmers' market, and various Buildings and Grounds initiatives.

- (1) **Fund Drive.** Marshall Sugarman and Mary Corthell, co-chairs of the Annual Fund Drive Committee, provided an update on the pledges received so far in this year's fund drive. Due to the committee's hard work and an increasingly optimistic and collaborative spirit in our congregation, the fund drive has produced very positive results. To date, 46 households have pledged, with 27 increasing their pledge from last year. The average pledge to date is up to \$ 1,922, from \$ 1,730 last year. A hearty thank-you for this support! However, the current projection for the overall result puts us still below what would be needed to achieve a balanced budget.
- (2) **Budget Hearing.** Based on this projection, the EB has crafted a prudent budget draft, which involves some hard choices but still results in a deficit. We would like to share this draft with the congregation at an open "budget hearing" on Sunday, May 7, after coffee hour, to get your feedback and suggestions. This will give everyone a chance to consider our options, two weeks before members vote on the budget at the Annual Meeting on May 21.
- (3) **Religious Education.** I am happy to report progress in the ongoing effort to create a

new Religious Education Committee, which will support our RE Coordinator and set goals for the program. A vibrant RE program is crucial, if we want to attract and retain young families, and create a spiritual home at First Parish for their children, who are the future of our congregation. Jessica Razza has agreed to chair the RE Committee – thanks, Jess!

- (4) **Farmers' Market.** We are still looking for a volunteer or two to help manage it this summer! It has been a real magnet for the past several years, drawing attention to the town center and to our church. And of course it has also strengthened our budget. Helping with the market is not a huge time commitment, but we need people willing to donate a few hours a week for it. Please contact Susan Stromgren if you are interested and would like to find out what it involves (susanstromgren@gmail.com).
- (5) **Wayside Pulpit.** You may have noticed that our Wayside Pulpit is currently without any displays. The reason for this is that it is not waterproof; snow and rain have taken a heavy toll this winter, and anything made of paper that is put inside gets soaked and wrinkled. Efforts are underway to contact the original maker, to figure out how this problem can be remedied.
- (6) **Medfield Historical Society.** On April 4, representatives from our Board met with the Board of Trustees at the Medfield Historical Society to discuss the status of documents and artifacts that emanated from First Parish and are currently held by the Society, and to propose a collaborative project: to create a First Parish Collection at

the Medfield Historical Society. If we want to secure the heritage of our congregation and our classic New England town, this kind of collaboration is essential and will open up new ways of connecting our past, present, and future.

There is a lot of new energy and enthusiasm at First Parish. Thank you for all you do to make this happen.

See you in church.

Fritz

Shirley and Thea help make a comforter for NewLife Home ReFurnishings.

Jeanette Ruyle organized two nights of sewing on March 21 and March 28 in the vestry after learning that New Life Home Refurnishing has a need for more full and queen sized blankets, comforters, quilts. Duvets covers of these sizes get donated but cannot be used. It was discovered it is possible to take a good duvet cover, fill it with quilt batting, close the opening, and tie it so the batting does not shift when washed. If you would like more info about New Life, here is their website <http://www.newlifehr.org>



For our Young People

Here's what's happening in May!



OWL (Our Whole Lives sexuality program) for grades 8-9: OWL will meet at 7:00 pm in the Vestry on May 7, 14 and 21.

Youth Group for grades 10-12: The youth group will meet on Sunday, May 28 at 7:00 pm in the Vestry.

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>



Coffee Hour Host Schedule for May

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

May 7 Rebecca and David Stephenson
May 14 Ann Cunningham

May 21 Sara and Mike Drumm
May 28

Meet New Member David Russell



David grew up in the Unitarian Church in Needham and Winchester but took a long break from church when he was at Amherst College and after. He moved to Boston and New York after college to pursue a career in theatre and dance, but over time he found that teaching was his true calling. Moving home to the Boston area, he became a teaching assistant in Concord and eventually taught English and served as department head at Beaver Country Day School before starting a tutoring business. Along the way, David settled down with wife Mari-Chris, who was music director at her church, and had two children – Julia, now twelve, and William, who is ten. Both William and Julia love art and ballet, taking their mom and dad’s theatrical, artistic bent into the next generation. His stepdaughter Stephanie, a talented artist who works as a nanny and photographer specializing in children and wedding proposals, completes the family.

The Russell family moved to Westwood in 2015 and David passed First Parish many times while driving to visit friends in Millis. He came to a service a year ago and was struck by the welcoming and open nature of the service and of the community. Our tradition of lighting candles of joys and sorrows, “sharing what you’re feeling more than what you’re thinking,” as he commented, particularly moved David. He looked for a way to free up Sundays to attend services and...here he is!

In First Parish, David sees a place a place where poetry and music are valued; he sees a place where he can establish supportive relationships; he sees a place where he may have his feet “held to the fire” on social justice issues. Equally as important, David always saw his early foray into theatre as a spiritual adventure and an exploration of self, and in First Parish he sees a community in which he can share that poetic and theatrical bent toward further spiritual exploration.

David seems a kind man of generous spirit who loves poetry and theatre as vehicles for spiritual exploration.... We are very fortunate that David has chosen First Parish.

FIRST PARISH YARD SALE

We raised **\$2,072.⁴¹** for
the maintenance of our historic building.



To everyone who helped by donating items and/or
volunteering for the many tasks connected with
preparing and running our Yard Sale!

We couldn't have done it without you!

**JOIN TEAM FIRST PARISH ON MAY 7TH 2017
FOR THE PROJECT BREAD WALK FOR HUNGER**



Please join Team First Parish Medfield to help alleviate hunger in Massachusetts. We will gather in front of the State House and start walking at 8:00 am. Walk guides, registration forms and pledge sheets are available on-line at www.projectbread.org. You may also mail your donation to me at 11 King Philip Trail, Norfolk MA 02156. Make your payable to Project Bread identifying Team First Parish Medfield on the memo line of your check.

See you at the State House!

Louise Rachin

508-528-8456

lrachin@comcast.net

Please join us for



to say good-bye to long-time members who are moving away and to welcome new members to our community.

May 13 – 6 PM – Vestry

Please RSVP:
membership@firstparishmedfield.org

Hosted by your
Membership Committee.
Childcare available.



Medfield Garden Club Annual Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 20th 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.



Our New Rock Garden installed in honor of Earth Day!



Church Office Reminders

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. **This month it is May 21st**

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



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's current needs: (Donations can be left in the basket in the narthex.)

Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Fruit or fruit packs
Applesauce-6 packs
PB

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



EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, May 27th

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Theme: Are We There Yet?

LOCATION: First Parish UU

On May 27, the Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse will welcome storyteller Nancer Ballard. The theme is "Are We There Yet?" Nancer Ballard is a writer, book artist, and story teller. A book of her poetry, *Dead Reckoning*, was published by Good Gay Poets, and she is the co-author of a book in the *'Round the Rug Math* series for children. Her poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction have been published in numerous literary magazines, and she is founder and former editor of *South Street Review*. She was a featured teller at Three Apples Storytelling Festival and has performed and led workshops on storytelling and book arts at schools, universities, and after-school programs for many years. She is currently a Resident Scholar at Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center where she works on special projects that combine literature, book arts, cognitive science, and narrative performance.

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, Medfield, MA.

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 Youtube. \$5 suggested donation (\$3 students)



FPUU Calendar of Events for May

Monday, May 1	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Saturday, May 6	Eagle Scout Event/Vestry
Sunday, May 7	Budget Hearing/11:00 am Music Recital/Vestry OWL/7:00 pm/U-House
Monday, May 8	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, May 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Offsite
Saturday, May 13	Membership Potluck/6:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, May 14	Mother's Day Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/Vestry OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, May 15	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry RE Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/U-House
Thursday, May 18	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, May 20	NewLife Home Refurnishings/Volunteer Day Medfield Garden Club Spring Sale/Vestry
Sunday, May 21	Annual Meeting/Sanctuary Newsletter Deadline Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/2:00 pm/Vestry OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, May 22	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, May 23	Membership Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, May 27	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry
Sunday, May 28	Youth Group/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, May 29	Memorial Day