

*First Parish
Unitarian
Universalist of
Medfield*

26 North Street, Medfield, MA
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www.firstparishmedfield.org



June Newsletter 2017

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

Congratulations on an entertaining Annual Meeting.

I'm half-serious. I believe I have, in seven congregations, attended 29 annual meetings altogether. Throw in another 15-20 District annual meetings and General Assemblies and some serious seat time has been logged over the years.

I've been a minister (student, intern, settled, interim), a Board president, a Board member of one church and two different Districts (three Districts if you count the former Northeast, which merged into Northern New England), a GA delegate as church member and minister, and of course a congregant – of both the grunted and disgruntled variety (sometimes in the same meeting).

Thank you, New England, for bequeathing us your most distinctive institution, the Town Meeting. We couldn't do Unitarian Universalism without it. You may be aware our current UUA Board of Trustees does not agree. They have lately ditched Roberts, notice, agendas and process roles like chair and so forth, in favor of something they proclaim more wholesome – or was that holistic? Or just hooley?

Every time I get impatient with our meetingness (and I do, even though I don't like the above "solutions"), I witness this whole flotilla sailing smoothly along. I see serious decisions getting made – Bylaws, budgets, Search Committees, and Green Sanctuaries. I see regular folks going above and beyond in their contribution to congregational life – and even being thanked for it with sincere gratitude. I see questions on matters from the ridiculous to the sublime being

asked and answered as if they all mattered – because people act like other people matter, even if they are a little too detail-oriented to get this thing done in 90 minutes.

Much more often than not, I have seen congregations applaud themselves at the end – and genuinely deserve it. Good annual meetings are an inspiration. Once we get through wiping our brows, most ministers will freely agree on this point. We all get exasperated sometimes, but we are deeply honored to serve you, to be a part of your story and to know the future of your church is taking shape even as we speak – or sit silent, as appropriate.

Take a small bow. Have a good summer. The future is on its way.

Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – June 4

"Practicing for Our Own God"

Rev. David W. Chandler

A great gift of UU faith is our unfettered search for what is beyond the everyday. Some of us call it the divine and some do not. Each is free to choose. However we seek the transcendent, the key is always in practice. There are many fruitful paths. **Religious Ed.**

Sunday – June 11

Flower Communion for All Ages

Rev. David W. Chandler

The regular church year closes with a service to celebrate the beauty of nature, rededicate us to a better world, and honor those martyred for freedom of conscience. Please bring fresh flowers to be joined together, given our blessing and then taken home by each of us.

Executive Board Committee Notes



Dear Members and Friends:

The Executive Board had its monthly meeting on May 18, just a few days before the annual meeting, and much of our time was spent on reviewing the agenda for that important day. At the annual meeting, the congregation voted to enter into a new search for a settled minister (at 2/3 time) and elected a search committee; it amended our by-laws; it elected a nominating committee as well as four Board members for the coming year, and it passed a resolution committing First Parish to living as a Green Sanctuary in our congregation and in our homes. And of course it passed our budget – always an item to which we (the Board as well as the congregation) pay special attention.

A call for volunteers:

One topic which received short shrift at the annual meeting (because we ran out of time) was **Medfield Day**. The Board decided two years ago that we would never again wait until August to begin the planning process for that event, and so it was on our agenda for this May 18 Board meeting as well. We would like to put together a small organizing committee for this year's Medfield Day, and we are looking for a few volunteers to help with this effort. As usual, we hope to feature a variety of activities, but this year we would also like to draw attention to our historic meeting house – with short tours of the building, a tour of the clock tower, and (in collaboration with the Medfield Historical Society) some displays about the role of the meeting house in Medfield's history. If you are willing and able to help us make Medfield Day 2017 a day that highlights the place of First Parish in Medfield, please let us know! (You can reach me at ffleischmann@comcast.net, or our new Vice Chair, Mary Corthell, at mecor4@gmail.com, or Rev. David at revdavidwchandler@gmail.com.)

A good year

As I said in my annual report, First Parish had a good year: "Spirits and membership are up, there is palpable new energy, and we have nominated a ministerial search committee in a timely fashion for the search to begin." That committee is now in contact with Regional Transition Coach Cindy Spring, planning for its overnight retreat that will kick off the search. Our annual meeting, too, was animated by a spirit of engagement and hopefulness that bodes well for the search and for the regular work we will take on in the coming year.

Thank you

I thank the hard-working members of our committees (of which the Executive Board is only the most visible), as well as our talented and dedicated staff, for all the tasks they accomplished this past church year, and I thank the congregation for coming together and caring in so many wonderful ways. Being in this community is a gift we give to each other, and I am grateful.

See you in church!

Fritz

Fritz Fleischmann, Chair, Executive Board

Revived Investments Committee



Following the annual meeting, Board Chair Fritz Fleischmann has asked me to put together and chair a revived Investments Committee. I'm looking for about 5 First Parish members

and friends who would be willing to bring their knowledge of investing to the committee. Our main task would be to review FPUU policies for managing investments in both its restricted (i.e., endowment) funds and non-restricted funds such as money markets and mutual funds where free cash has been parked. Also to be reviewed would be the rationale for current investments, as well as policies regarding disposition of gifts of stocks and other securities, whether in fulfillment of an

ember's pledge or as part of an estate's bequest. Policies for at least some of these matters do exist, as do recommendations from the UUA and other not-for-profit organizations, so we would not be starting from scratch.

In all matters, we would be guided by the aim of investing for the benefit of First Parish, consistent with the preservation of capital and the principles of First Parish and Unitarian-Universalism. I would like the committee to make recommendations to the Board for any revisions in policies in time for the mid-year congregational meeting, which would probably require two or possibly three meetings during the fall, plus some research assignments and email exchanges with other members. Depending on what is accomplished, it is possible the committee would also meet in the spring. If you are interested, please contact me at wwians@mac.com. -Bill Wians



Annual Meeting – May 21

For our Young People



OWL (Our Whole Lives) will meet June 4, 11th, and 18th and then break for the summer. We will finish the curriculum in the fall and begin our Coming of Age program in the late fall (see below!)

YOUTH GROUP REUNION/CELEBRATION

All youth group participants past and present are invited to a celebration on Sunday, June 25th, at 6pm for food, fun, and reconnecting. If you've come to Youth Group at First Parish, **YOU'RE INVITED!!** Contact Cissy on FB or at hoothootvalues@gmail.com

Coming this Fall- COMING OF AGE

Our Coming of Age program will begin in late fall 2017. Facilitated by Cissy Hull-Allen and David Maxson, this exploration of theologies and personal beliefs is open to 9th and 10th graders in our community. Participants will share thoughts, explore religion and philosophy through art and nature, and with the assistance of a UU mentor, formulate their current personal credo.



New Member Sunday – April 30th

From Cissy and the Religious Education Committee



Starting with Medfield Day and the beginning of regular Sunday services, Sundays have been busy for our RE Coordinator, facilitators and Little Lights providers. Samantha Nemeth, our Coordinator of Religious Education, has been working with Rev. David, meeting with parents, coordinating RE Helpers, and she's best at keeping our children wanting to come back for more! Our Medfield Day donation collection went to the Medfield HS Gay-Straight

Alliance - the first unsolicited donation they've ever received. Continuing with the Spirit Play curriculum as a basis, Samantha continues to explore the UU principles with the children and friends of First Parish. With the help of Leanne Harvey, we had a musical Winter Solstice program with all ages participating. There were Earth Day activities, poetry readings, and many teachable moments throughout the year.

The Youth Group once again began their year raising money at Medfield Day. Some of the money was again used to supplement our Little Lights corner. With many of our group going off to school last fall, we usually numbered only 3 or 4 and mostly met to talk and eat!

Our Whole Lives program, facilitated by Chris Conley and Cissy, started in January. This sexuality and spirituality curriculum reminds us to "live the values" through guest speakers, role playing, and other activities.

We would especially like to thank Alice Galley for her many hours coordinating our Little Lights schedule. Most Sundays we offer childcare for our little ones in the vestry, and Alice has also arranged for childcare for our special events including our annual meeting and our small suppers. Her efforts are much appreciated and we wish her the best of luck as her journey continues at UMichigan.

Personally, my annual (and permanent) thanks go to John Kornet and his constant support. I'd also like to recognize Mary Corthell for her time in helping our small committee do great work. And, as always, a special thank you to Sandra for her diligence in being such a great personal assistant to our committee (and especially me)!



Farmers' Market to Start on June 15th!



The Medfield Farmers' Market will return to the grounds of our Church for a 6th season on **Thursday, June 15th** from 2:00 to 6:30 pm and will continue each Thursday through September 28th.

Needham Savings Bank will be our sponsor. Jordan Brothers Seafood will all be returning and we are finalizing our other vendors at this time.

Susan Stromgren is the Market Manager.

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



Thank You Clover Leaf Lawn Care!!!



Tim from Clover Leaf Lawn Care has offered to cut the grass at First Parish all summer long as a gift to First Parish. Thank you Tim! Because of you we are able to put the money saved towards some other budget items. Your care and attention to the church lawn is most appreciated!

Clover Leaf Lawn Care, Inc. is a locally owned full service lawn care company providing a wide range of lawn care and landscaping services to customers in Medfield and surrounding towns. Tim McCormack, owner/operator, has been providing customers with professional and highly personal lawn care services for more than twenty five years.



Earth Day – April 23

Flower Donation Thank You



Ann Cunningham
Louise Rachin
Margaret Rolph
Rebecca Stephenson
Jessica Razza
Karen Wians
Kay Bennett
Mary Corthell

Please accept this virtual bouquet of thanks for making possible fresh flowers for every Sunday Service.

(Thank you Louise Rachin – for being the altar flower coordinator this last church year)

Annual Fund Drive Committee Update



The annual fund drive came to an end on 5/20/17 and we achieved 100% participation! Wow, take a moment to take this in...AMAZING! This is the first time, in many years, that we have collected all of the pledges during the month of May. In a nutshell, 54 households pledged a total of \$101,150. The matching fund contributions totaled \$5,050 and the total fund drive yielded \$106,200. We want to thank everyone for their commitment and participation. Our collective connection to our church family is alive and well. As you may remember, the small suppers kicked off the start of this year's fund drive. Six families hosted small suppers, on March 11 and March 18, and 56 members/friends gathered to dine on delicious food, engaged in dynamic conversation and reflected on how much we value our connection to FP. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

This year, we introduced two visuals to the fund drive. These visuals were on display, in the sanctuary, during the Sunday service from March - May. The first visual reminded us of how many families "connected" to FP by submitting their pledge. And, the second visual recorded the total amount pledged. These two graphics assisted with our overall success. We are very grateful to Darline Lewis for creating and maintaining both visuals.

One important observation following this year's fund drive is our pledge base is more evenly distributed. This is different from past years when a few major donors constituted a narrow but significant pledge base. A broader pledge base equates to a more balanced revenue platform. This is good news.

As we announce, "it is a wrap", the Annual Fund Drive Committee extends our warmest appreciation to all members of FP. We could not have finished the pledge drive on such a solid note without your support, commitment and participation. A standing ovation is bestowed upon the entire congregation!

With sincere appreciation,
Marshall Sugarman, Chris Flaherty and Mary Corthell



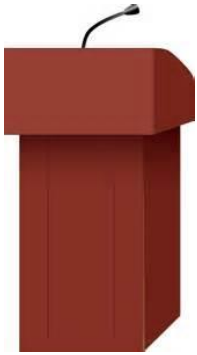
Coffee Hour Host for June

June 4: Mary Corthell

June 11: Jen Bartle

Thank you to Jen Bartle who is coordinating coffee hour for the month of June.

Summer Lay-Led Services



Please consider volunteering to lead or co-lead a Sunday service in the Vestry this summer. 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. Helping to keep FPUU Medfield's services going in the summer is a great gift for our own community and for those who might like to be a part of it.

These services begin at 9:30 and run 45 minutes to an hour. The service themes are limited only by your imagination and a reflection of our UU values. This could be your favorite readings on something important, your thoughts about a topic dear to you, or activities like a slide show, walking meditation, or travel and life experiences. We include a Chalice lighting, the sharing of joys and sorrows and a time for reflection and meditation – and, of course, options for discussion.

We use a "Lotsa Helping Hands" website to coordinate the services schedule. Contact Thea Iberall if you would like to participate in the website. Email theaiberall@yahoo.com. You are also welcome to talk to Rev. David. Look for the first summer service in June!

Green Sanctuary Committee

It was my honor to be able to read the poem *Tell Them* by Kathy Jitnil-Kijiner at the Earth Day service in April.

My outlook on life has changed since I read that poem. Jitnil-Kijiner talks about the people of the Marshall Islands as the 'descendants of the finest navigators in the world'. She says tell friends 'what it's like to see the entire ocean level with the land.' She says they don't know of the science or the politics but that they are afraid. They don't want to leave their islands. I think more and more about what it means to have one's life driven by outside forces. How our lives stop when 3 feet of snow falls

and temperatures settle at 25 below. Or when the thermometer hits 112 degrees and you find you can't move too fast. They say to change everything, it's going to take everyone. I am grateful that the congregants of First Parish are aware of that: by voting yes on our resolution to become a Green Sanctuary, we are saying to ourselves, our children, and to the Jitnil-Kijiners of the world that we care about the future. – Thea



THANK YOU FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!



John Kornet, Louise Rachin & Duncan Glover

On Sunday, May 7th, 30,000 people walked to raise over \$2.5 million to support community based programs that assist hungry people across Massachusetts.

To date, thanks to generous people like you, we have raised

Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirteen Dollars!!

As always, we are most grateful for your support.

John, Louise & Duncan

Project Bread Team First Parish Medfield

PLEASE JOIN US!
Louise Rachin, Lakeside Café Volunteer

Lakeside Café

for LGBT Seniors, Friends and Allies

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual & Transgender



**Come Celebrate Pride Month
Pizza Party & Viewing of Gen Silent**

Monday, June 19, 2017

5:00 PM — 7:30 PM

Sharon Adult Center

219 Massapoag Ave

Sharon, MA

For further information or to register
call Jayne Davis at HESSCO, 781-784-4944

To ensure a meal please RSVP by June 15, 2017

Suggested meal donation: \$3.00 for seniors over 60, \$5 charge for anyone under 60

****Free transportation available within Sharon including the Sharon Train Station****

For help with transportation, call Nancy Weiner by June 14th at the Sharon Adult Center
781-784-8000

HESSCO
ELDER SERVICES



LGBT *aging project*



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.

**The next Coffeehouse will be held on
Saturday, June 24th at 7:00 p.m.!**
Theme: **Both Sides Now**
with
The Shadow and Light Storytellers

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)



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.



Notes from the Church Office:



Please note that from June 15th until August 31st, 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

Sunday, June 4	OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, June 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Offsite
Sunday, June 11	UCC Picnic/10:30-3:00/Grounds Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/Vestry OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, June 12	Voice Recital/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, June 13	Strings Recital/5:00 pm/Sanctuary & Vestry
Thursday, June 15	Medfield Farmers' Market Begins/2:00pm/Grounds Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Friday, June 16	Fundraiser Rental/Vestry
Saturday, June 17	NewLife Home Refurnishing/Volunteer Day
Sunday, June 18	Father's Day Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/2:00 pm/Vestry OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, June 22	Farmers' Market/2:00 pm/Grounds
Saturday, June 24	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, June 25	Lay-Led Service/9:30 am/Vestry Youth Group Reunion Celebration/6:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, June 29	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00 pm/Grounds



Have a wonderful summer!
Our In-gathering Sunday service will be held on
September 10, 2017