



First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield, MA
(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org



September Newsletter 2017

The Parson's Packet

David W. Chandler, Interim Minister

Dear friends,

Every year Labor Day leaves me with a hangover. No, not *that* kind of hangover! I mean the hangover of summer not really gone, of fall not really here, the hangover of not knowing whether I am, as the old phrase goes, "afoot or on horseback."

In case you are like me, please be aware that First Parish is officially on horseback as of Sept. 10 at 10:00 am. Our first worship of the new church year is Ingathering Sunday for All Ages. We hope you will share Water Communion that day. The literal meaning of "communion" is to create

and join in community. Bring some water from wherever you have traveled this summer, even if you didn't leave home. Bring some words of renewal or reflection from your spiritual journey of the past several months or the past few days.

We will each carry the water forward and speak our words (or stay silent, as you wish). Everyone is invited to pour your individual water and individual self into the one vessel that represents us all. We add a little water saved from last year and speak our words of renewal and reconnection into one community.

We also remind ourselves that we always live with one foot in the past and one in the present. We are headed every day into the future. It is a project, not a perfection. And it is most excellent to travel through this amazing universe in such good company.

We have actually been on the move for some weeks. One significant journey is the search for a called minister to lead next year's Ingathering Sunday (Sept. 9, 2018). Your Search Committee has diligently organized and planned a lot of activities for this fall, including surveying,

discussing and compiling. Your participation is strongly encouraged as they consider and consult. They will gather opinions and facts, but what they will need most is your presence – your tangible buy-in not to the data of the moment but to a future that will evolve in partnership with a minister candidate they must select – when all is said and done – mostly on their intuition.

Be sure they know you are on board.

Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – September 10

Ingathering Sunday

Rev. David W. Chandler

Our first Sunday is to renew and reconnect. Please bring water and words of the heart for Water Communion. Your water can come from anywhere. Your words can tell us where your spirit has journeyed. Whether you were happy or sad or sunburned, whether you felt stretched or squeezed, you are invited to share. **All-ages Service.**

Sunday – September 17

"See You Sunday"

Rev. David W. Chandler

The aphorism, "80% of life is just showing up," is attributed to Woody Allen. That is certainly true for church. It matters for each of us, because community is how we grow. It also works for all of us – we need your company to flourish. **Religious Exploration.**

Sunday – September 24

"Nice People Do"

Rev. David W. Chandler

Of course we are nice people – very nice in fact. But to "grow a soul" and to change the world – which we want – we need to be and do more. We must remember and renew our foundational commitment to be free people. That matters. **Religious Exploration.**

Ingathering Sunday – Special Offering



We take care of our First Parish community in many ways. One of the less-obvious ways is the Minister's Discretionary Fund. In fact, we don't even have a formal name for this – MDF is a generic term used in many UU congregations.

We have a budget item for the Pastoral Care Committee, but we do not have any allocation to meet pastoral needs that emerge suddenly among members and friends. Our Sept. 10 Ingathering Service will include a Special Offering to create such funding. As we gather to renew our community, this is a chance to strengthen our ability to assist each other, to "pay it forward" for needs we know are and will be there.

MDF funds are kept in a separate account and disbursed directly by the minister. This makes the response quick and also, very importantly, maintains confidentiality about who receives aid. As much as privacy, this is to encourage people to ask for help.

The minister is responsible for record keeping and reconciliation for the annual audit.

MDF also meets at least some requests from the surrounding community, from people who come to or call the church needing a tank of gas or a meal or help with rent or heating oil.

The best way to create and sustain the MDF is to include a Special Offering about once a year, and Ingathering Sunday is a service that connects all of the giving and receiving that sustains our community. In my experience, some people will give regularly by designating a contribution to the MDF and the Fund will find a level First Parish is comfortable with. Church experts agree the best guarantee of successful church pledging is a culture of giving. Having a direct pastoral fund should expand our generosity in just that way.

On Sept. 10, please designate checks to the MDF. Contributions to your pledge are also welcome, of course. Please mark them "pledge," so the collectors can be clear.

Thank you for the generosity of the people of First Parish.

– Rev. David



Religious Education for Children & Youth

RE for Grades K-7 Begins on September 17th

Executive Board Notes



Dear Friends:

Welcome back! As the days get shorter and the nights cooler, it will be good to come together again around our common flame, as we approach the darker time of the year.

Although many of us have withdrawn from church activities over the summer, life at First Parish has continued vigorously, in various ways and venues, and we have also had some

exciting developments:

- (1) Lay-led services, each with a specific topic and variously led by Thea Iberall, Jeanette Ruyle and Susan Stromgren, attracted regular participants over the summer. Thank you for keeping this tradition alive!
- (2) The Farmers' Market attracted many residents and passers-by to our location, and it continues strong as of this writing. Generally managed by Susan Stromgren, the Market was also made possible by the work of others, who helped with setting up and taking down, baking pies and other goodies, putting things on Facebook and Instagram, and writing weekly articles for the newspaper. In addition to Susan, those others were Greg and Helen Beedy, C.B. Doub, Alison Galley, Thea Iberall, Louise Rachin, Jessica Razza (and children), and David Stephenson. Thanks to one and all for creating this locus of civic life!
- (3) The ministerial search committee was very active over the summer; among other things, they crafted the congregational questionnaire that was distributed during the last week of August. (If you have yet to fill it out, please do so promptly!)
- (4) The newly reconstituted Religious Exploration Committee also met over the summer to review and renew the operations of our RE program, and it held a very successful open house for currently enrolled as well as new families.
- (5) The Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse also continued, concluding its summer run with a triumphant performance of "We Did It For You," a musical about the history of women's rights, by our own Thea Iberall. (The vestry was filled to overflow, and people had to be turned away at the door.)
Congratulations, Thea!
- (6) Thea again: as you know, she drafted our final application to the UUA for Green Sanctuary status, and she was notified in July (as chair of our Green Sanctuary Committee) that the application had been approved "with flying colors." We plan to celebrate this milestone with the congregation this fall.
- (7) And more good news: we have been offered a "growth grant" of \$1,000 by First Parish Malden UU. The Membership Committee will identify a use for these funds to spur growth, which will be presented at Malden on Oct. 14.
- (8) Finally, our Seth Thomas clock inside the sanctuary has been cleaned and repaired by clockmaker Bill Gruhn of Medfield (recommended by Greg Beedy), and it was re-installed by the joint efforts of Rev. David, David Temple and Bill Wians. Thank you!

And on this note: time to end this long column! I look forward to seeing you in church.

Fritz

MEDFIELD DAY- SEPTEMBER 16th, 9 am – 3 pm!!



Join the fun!



As in past years, First Parish will be participating in the Medfield Day festivities on Saturday, September 16th. The activities and booths this year are:

- **Clock Tower Tours**
- **Paint-a-Mug**
- **Henna Tattoos**
- **Paint-a-Pumpkin**
- **Bake Sale**
- **Espresso Yourself**



We are looking for a few volunteers to organize and run the Bake Sale and henna tattoo table. We also could use some extra hands to help set up and clean up and to assist at the various other tables.

This is a perfect opportunity to help make the church shine and to show our community what a wonderful group of people we are. Whether you live in Medfield or not, please consider lending a hand.

Please respond to Linda (lindainwinthrop@gmail.com) and Susan (sue.sheppard@verizon.net) to let us know what you can do.

Thanks in advance for your help and your commitment to First Parish.



Introducing the New Website for First Parish



For many years Dan Bibel, with assistance from John Kornet, has developed, managed and cared for the First Parish website. The platform on which the site was built became out of date and posed support issues. Dan proposed that we move the website to Wordpress, which offers more robust support and potential for expansion. That work has been completed, using a template developed by the UUA for the basic design and structure.

Please send any feedback, changes, etc. to me

- merolph@verizon.net. And, as always, we solicit timely information, photographs, video, which you can send any time!

Thank you, Dan, for your work and attention to the website!

Farmers' Market Continues!



A big thank you Susan Stromgren, Market Manager for a successful season so far. There have been so many new vendors this year and some really great community involvement.

Our Farmers' Market is every Thursday from 2 to 6:30 until October. Come by and visit us.

Shout out to Clover Leaf Lawn Care !!



Tim from Clover Leaf Lawn Care has been cutting 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.

Ministerial Search Committee – Input Sessions

Dear Members and Friends of
FPUU Medfield

Greetings from the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)!

This is an update on upcoming events relating to our ministerial search.

- We will be holding three input sessions for members and friends of FPUU Medfield. The purpose is to gather in-depth information about the attributes we are looking for in our new minister as well as defining honestly how we describe our congregation to potential candidates.
- The first session will be on **Wednesday, September 13th from 7pm-9pm** at Duncan Glover and Louise Rachin's house, 11 King Philip Trail, Norfolk. RSVP is preferred to Shirley_riga@yahoo.com or call Shirley at (413) 537-7582. Yummy snacks will be provided.
- A second input session will be held after services on **Sunday, September 17th in the vestry from 11:30 to 12:30**. No RSVP required
- A third MSC input session will be held after services on **Sunday, September 24th in the vestry from 11:30 to 12:30**. No RSVP required
- Please fill out our **Congregational Survey** which was sent via email around September 1st. We appreciate your full participation as the information we gather will enrich our ministerial search packet. More information will be available during the input sessions noted above. If you have difficulty using or accessing a computer, please see one of the hosts during the input session.
- Also, please note after September 10th, there will be a **Suggestion Box** in the vestry for your use as another way to communicate your thoughts to us.

You are an important link within our community. We appreciate everything you can contribute to this search. We want to hear your voice. Please mark your calendars for these important sessions for our community!

Your Ministerial Search Committee,
Shirley Riga & Karen Wians (co-chairs), Chris Flaherty, Rebecca Stephenson, Sarah Zitoli, Jessica Razza and Duncan Glover

Below is the link to the First Parish Medfield Ministerial Search Congregational Survey. This anonymous survey takes 30-40 minutes to complete. Please allow enough time to complete in one sitting. Thank you in advance for your input. It is essential to receive everyone's input to best represent who we are to our ministerial candidates.

Please complete by September 25th.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHLDT26>

Green Sanctuary Committee



On July 17, we submitted our application for accreditation by the UUA for Green Sanctuary status. The application described the journey that First Parish has undertaken over the last five years from when the Green Sanctuary Committee grew out of an

informal conversation group of members who were concerned about climate change and social justice.

As many of you know by now, the UUA approved our application in August, and First Parish is now a Green Sanctuary, joining over 260 other UU congregations nationwide. Congratulations to all who worked hard shepherding this to fruition. And thank you to the whole congregation who resolved to tighten the connection between intentional spiritual practices and environmental consciousness and to treating the world more gently using fewer resources.

The challenge we at First Parish have is to honor the interconnectedness of all life in a divided nation where communication is at a premium. Our choice is to live by our values, practicing acceptance and compassion. People around the country are stepping up to sustainable practices and environmental justice, working hard and holding up their side. While our new status is a tremendous shared accomplishment, this Green Sanctuary status is only the beginning. We have a resolution to live up to. And it will be the honor of the Green Sanctuary Committee to guide you in this work. We look forward to your joining our monthly potlucks for good food and lively conversations-







EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE



The Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse had a wonderful summer, bringing in larger and larger crowds to First Parish on the last Saturday of each month. In July, we welcomed Carolyn Waters, a blues/gospel singer who rocked the house with her amazing voice.

In August, in honor of Women's Equality Day, the social justice group Medfield Huddle staged *We Did It For You!* – a musical by Thea Iberall about how women got their rights in America. It was a standing room only crowd that cheered on the large cast (which included 3 First Parish members Susan Stromgren, Alison Galley, and Shirley Riga). And we had much help from the Medfield community: Medfield TV, Starbucks, and the Fred Davis Corporation. From this event, FPUU got lots of community exposure plus a new 10' projection screen!



Thank you all who continue to volunteer to help make Espresso a huge community success.

Our next show: Saturday, September 30th at 7:00 PM



On September 30th, Espresso will be featuring the nationally-acclaimed trilingual storyteller Barbara Aliprantis. She shares stories about her Greek-American immigrant childhood in Brooklyn, NY. She also shares tales from the classroom gathered over 35 years telling stories to multi-ethnic populations, hearing and deaf. Aliprantis is the recipient of the NSN ORACLE Service Award, and she was honored at NYC City Hall for "her distinguished body of work." *"Barbara's stories about her immigrant experience transcend the bounds of one language one culture."* The theme for the evening is "...and where are YOU from?" In addition, Espresso will be once again participating in the 100 Thousand Poets for Change: we'll be joining poets, musicians, and artists across the planet to promote peace and sustainability.

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. 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).

Medfield Food Cupboard



As in the past, First Parish will be collecting food items for the Medfield Food Cupboard. Donations of non-perishable, unopened, unexpired food items may be dropped off in the narthex. The Food Cupboard exists to provide assistance to residents of Medfield who are in need of supplemental or emergency food. The Medfield Food Cupboard is generously supported by the residents of Medfield, the town's churches, and various community organizations.

To meet the needs of their clients, food distributions are held approximately every 2 weeks at the Food Cupboard home: the United Church of Christ, 496 Main Street, Medfield. If you need the services of the Food Cupboard, please call us at 508-359-4958 and leave a message.

Donations of canned tuna and chicken, canned pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, applesauce, juice, pasta sauces, paper products (paper towels, Kleenex, and toilet paper), cleaning products, and health and beauty aids such as shampoo, toothpaste, and shaving razors or refills, are always welcome. Financial donations may be mailed to the Medfield Food Cupboard at PO Box 172, Medfield, MA 02052. Financial donations are used to supplement food contributions by purchasing meats, cheese, frozen items, and any item in short supply.

Help Needed

Monthly Coffee Hour Host Coordinators Needed



As we enjoy the last days of summer...that's right...it's time once again to sign up for coffee hour.

I will coordinate providers for the Sundays in September. We will need volunteers to coordinate providers for the months ahead.

For September:
9/10 Ann Cunningham
9/17 provider needed
9/24 provider needed

Please sign up to provide coffee hour for one of the available September dates. Also needed are volunteers to coordinate the remaining months.

I realize everyone is dedicated to our many commitments, so thank you in advance for, as always, coming through for this important gathering time of our community.

Sincerely,

Ann Cunningham
Coordinator of coffee hour coordinators

Altar Flowers Needed



REQUEST FOR WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWERS

Please contact Louise Rachin
at 617-429-7319

or lrachin@comcast.net

if you would like to provide worship service flowers.

Volunteer Opportunities at New Life Home Refurnishing, Walpole.



The mission of NewLife Home Refurnishing is to distribute "gently used" household goods at no cost to individuals and families who need help to rebuild their lives. Our clients come to us through referrals from social service and government agencies, as well as area clergy.

First Parish is scheduled to volunteer at NewLife Home Refurnishings **from 8:00 AM to Noon on Saturday morning September 23** (normally it's the third Saturday of the month, but due to Medfield Day we will volunteer at NewLife the 4th Saturday of September) at the warehouse in Walpole.

Please sign up on the "VolunteerSpot" website via the following three easy steps.

1. **Go to the** invitation page on the following website: VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/S3QU18>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

The warehouse is located on Route 27 at the Walpole Station Business Center. The address is 102 Elm Street, Walpole. From Medfield, take Route 27 South towards Walpole. Just after passing under a railroad overpass, take a right into the warehouse parking lot. You will see three loading docks. Enter the door to the left of the loading docks. A NewLife volunteer should be waiting for you inside the warehouse on the first floor. The NewLife space for the stored furniture is on the fourth floor.

If you have any questions please contact Duncan Glover at 508-528-8456 or [duncanglover @comcast.net](mailto:duncanglover@comcast.net)

Other ways to help: NewLife relies on the generosity of residents of Medfield and the surrounding towns. They accept most basic furniture and household items in good condition. Those who are downsizing or redecorating can recycle their items, knowing they will be put to good use and kept out of landfills. Donations are tax deductible.

Information on how you can arrange for a donation can be found at www.newlifehr.org.

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| <p>FPUU's Next Volunteer Date for NewLife Home Refurnishings : 8:00 AM to Noon Saturday September 23</p> |
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Support FPUU with Amazon.com (and it's Free!!!)



Did you know that if you order from Amazon.com and use a special link that First Parish will receive 5% of your order? It won't cost you anything! If you order from Amazon, please copy this link and put it on your desktop. Clicking the link will bring you right to the Amazon website and there is no need to do anything more than place your order like you typically would. How easy is that?

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)

Support Small Farmers and FPUU with Equal Exchange



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>

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

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

FPUU Calendar of Events

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| Monday, September 4 | Labor Day, office closed The Larger Circle/7:30-9:30 pm/Vestry |
| Thursday, September 7 | Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds MSC Meeting/6:00 pm/Vestry Executive Board Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House |
| Saturday, September 9 | Executive Board Committee Retreat/1:00 pm/U-House |
| Sunday, September 10 | In-Gathering Service/10:00 am/Sanctuary |
| Monday, September 11 | The Larger Circle/7:30-9:30 pm/Vestry |
| Wednesday, September 13 | MSC Input Session I /7:00 pm/Glover-Rachin House |
| Thursday, September 14 | Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds |
| Saturday, September 16 | Medfield Day/Grounds |
| Sunday, September 17 | RE Begins MSC Input Session II/11:30 am/Vestry Anti-racism in the 'burbs/1:30-4:30 pm/Vestry |
| Monday, September 18 | The Larger Circle/7:30-9:30 pm/Vestry |
| Thursday, September 21 | Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds MSC Meeting/6:15 pm/Vestry Executive Board Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House |
| Saturday, September 23 | Medfield Day Raindate New Life Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day |
| Sunday, September 24 | MSC Input Session III/11:30 am/Vestry |
| Monday, September 25 | The Larger Circle/7:30-9:30 pm/Vestry |
| Tuesday, September 26 | RE Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/Vestry |
| Thursday, September 28 | Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds |
| Saturday, September 30 | Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/7:00 pm/Vestry |