



First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

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*Light breeze, Colorful leaves
Bare trees
It must be autumn*

October Newsletter 2017

The Parson's Packet

David W. Chandler, Interim Minister

Dear friends,

Autumn in New England comes in two parts. The first is "leftover summer" – harvest season, but mosquito bites are not unknown. The second is "near-winter" – landscape mostly brown but no snow yet.

These are the mini-seasons of a northern latitude but essentially coastal climate. Congregational life has mini-seasons also – phases within the larger cycle of the church calendar and the rhythm of activity. We are about to transition in this way.

The intensive planning and input phase of the Search process will peak with the "Beyond Categorical Thinking" worship and workshop on Sunday, Oct. 15. You will, I hope, attend both. Rev. Jane Dwinell, BCT consultant, is very familiar with, as they say, "the challenges and opportunities" of small congregations (every UU church with fewer than 150 members). The key is to focus more on what we can than what we can't.

That means leaders – starting with your minister but by no means ending there – who see and grasp paths to the future instead of perpetual

problems. It takes a font of inspiration, fresh views and the optimism of options. That’s what BCT is meant to do.

Then your seven delegates to the future will retire to consider and prepare their presentation to potential ministers. Seeking and selection of a candidate is in their hands until April or May, but you and I have lots to do in the meantime. What ministers are looking for is not a product but a process. Nobody prefers CPR as a starting point. We’d much rather get on board with a visible vitality, even if it’s prone to hitches of various kinds. Ministers expect hitches – they mean movement.

First Parish is definitely moving. Your worship and music renews inspiration month after month. Your care for each other adapts to the challenges of life. Your stately buildings get more historic every day. RE is bursting with new energy. The Farmers’ Market is flourishing. Espresso is on a roll and Medfield Day you welcomed hundreds of people to church-related activities – which epitomized friendly outreach to all. Your Board set broad objectives to operate more smoothly and effectively. The object? Less work and worry; more growth and fun. Let’s keep going!

Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – October 1 **“Discovery – or Disbelief?”** Rev. David W. Chandler
“Be ours a religion...which goes everywhere,” is the famous proclamation of Theodore Parker. But what kind of journey are we on? What do we carry with us? What do we seek? Being a UU – what kind of religion is that, anyway? **Religious Exploration.**

Sunday – October 8 **Honoring Indigenous People** Worship and Music Committee
Jenifer Bartle, Bill Wians, and Christopher Conley will be leading a service that aims to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas, to organize against current injustices, and to celebrate indigenous resistance. **All-ages Service.**

Sunday – October 15 **“Beyond Categorical Thinking”** Rev. Jane Dwinell, Search Committee
Religious Exploration.

Sunday – October 22 **“Being Crazy for Love”** Rev. David W. Chandler
Congregational mission can get stuck on what it is or should be. The *how* is more important – how do we get there, how do we live it, how do we know it makes us better day-to-day? How do we embody our church’s core purpose? **Religious Exploration.**

Sunday – October 29 **Annual Remembrance: “Day of the Dead”** Rev. Lilia Cuervo
Rev. Cuervo led this service at FPUU in 2015. She returns to help us celebrate all those who live in our hearts but no longer in our world. Bring your pictures and mementos for our Altar of Remembrance, and spirit world decorations as well. **All-ages Service.**

Special Services in October

The Worship and Music Committee invites you to two special services -- as well as a family-friendly workshop -- in the month of October!

On Sunday, October 8, please join us for a commemoration of Indigenous Peoples Day. Jenifer Bartle, Bill Wians, and Christopher Conley will be leading a service that aims to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas, to organize against current injustices, and to celebrate indigenous resistance.

On Sunday, October 29, the WMC is pleased to welcome back to First Parish the Rev. Lilia Cuervo for a special Day of the Dead service. Rev. Cuervo, a native of Colombia, was the first Latin American woman ordained in the Unitarian Universalist denomination. She pioneered full time ministry in Spanish in San Jose, CA. where she served for six and a half years. At First Parish in Cambridge she was the first woman and Latina, to be installed as a Parish Minister. She is a co-founder of the Latino/a UU Networking Association (LUUNA), and the initiator of, and a translator and contributor to, Las Voces del Camino, the Spanish language Unitarian Universalist hymnal. Her degrees include a Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry, a Master of Demography from Georgetown University, and a B.A. in Math and Physics from Women Teachers College, Bogota, Colombia.

Rev. Cuervo will be leading our Sunday service on October 29, as will also lead a family-friendly workshop activity on Saturday, October 28. Details to follow via email!

We hope to see you in church!
Best,
Jenifer Bartle, Chair
Worship and Music Committee

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) will resume on Sunday, October 1st



This comprehensive sexuality program began last year and will finish up this fall. Developed by the UUA and the UCC, the curriculum reinforces our values as well as educating in topics including Anatomy and Physiology, Relationships, Communication, options for safe sex, and Social Media awareness through role playing, discussions, and guest speakers. **OWL Meeting Dates: 10/1, 10/15, 10/29 & 11/5.**

Coming of Age to Begin Late Fall



Coming of Age (COA) will be offered again this year for 9th and 10th graders! This is a year-long coming of age program which generally include four parts: pairing youth with adult mentors; discussions and retreats that emphasize self-awareness and confidence-building; service to the church and community; and a culminating affirmation ceremony. **Neighboring Faiths** for 7th and 8th graders will also begin in the late fall.

Welcome Amber to Little Lights



There's a new face in Little Lights! Please welcome Amber, a caregiver the RE committee hired this summer. She joins Gabe, Molly, Sammy K and our coordinator Lian. Little Lights is available every Sunday 9:45-11:15 for our pre-K and under people.

Executive Board Notes



Dear Friends:

Your Executive Board is off to a lively start: we already had two regular board meetings (September

7 and 21), as well as our usual fall retreat (September 9). As is the custom at the beginning of every new church year, we took stock of our own feelings about where the congregation stands at this time: are we doing better than we did a year ago? Have we made a good-faith effort to bring our community back together in a more transparent, open, and accepting spirit? Are we in a good position to start the search for a new settled minister?

Our general answer to these and similar questions has been a (qualified) Yes – spirits are up, many people have re-engaged, and we are in a reasonably promising place with our search. There are really positive developments in some areas, such as Religious Exploration, that bode well for our future. That said, we also have some areas that need our focused attention.

One is the condition of our buildings, which currently lacks the vigilant stewardship of a functioning Buildings and Grounds committee. Both of our co-chairs have resigned from their role due to ill health, and we need to rethink how we

want to manage the maintenance of our facilities. Rich Mastronardi, our board liaison with Buildings and Grounds, EB member Susan Stromgren, and long-term Buildings and Grounds champion David Maxson have agreed to form an ad-hoc task force that will work with Rev. David to propose a new modus operandi for this area.

Another area is what I'd generally call "systems" – general church administration, definition of staff roles and tasks, the functioning of committees (including the Executive Board). We have a large document called "Policies and Procedures," compiled a few years ago from materials provided by the committee chairs of the time. This needs to be scrubbed and condensed, with the goal of preparing a more usable document that can aid an incoming minister in understanding and, perhaps in due time improving, the various ways in which organize ourselves and our work. Mary Corthell and I have agreed to take a first stab at this task, but it will be the job of the entire EB to review many of our current ways (in consultation with others, as needed), and to prepare a workable document ahead of a new era of settled ministry. These are just some highlights – I will keep you regularly posted on new developments. And I am always happy to answer your questions! See you in church.

Fritz



BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING WORKSHOP



Sunday October 15th, 2017

11:30 am

First Parish Vestry

On Sunday Oct 15th, FPUU will participate in a Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) workshop offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. Our Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop.

The BCT program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a Sunday worship service followed by a 2-3 hour workshop with Rev. Jane Dwinell, a facilitator trained by the UUA. In the workshop, FPUU members will:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns they have for a new minister
- Learn more about the ministerial search process, and
- Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

The selection of a minister is important. The BCT workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be a part of that process. This experience will provide guidance for the search committee in our work.

Come on Sunday Oct 15th to participate in this UUA-sponsored service and workshop!

Lunch will be provided



Bee Removal from the U-House

It was touch and go, what with the wasps multiplying and Medfield Day coming up. But F&W Pest Control saved the day and addressed the expanding wasp's nest in our U-House porch. Thank you to all the volunteers that put their heads together and made the arrangements to make this happen before thousands of people were walking around on our campus!



Medfield Day 2017



Saturday, September 16th turned out to be another wonderful Medfield Days event. Although the first couple of hours were slow, the sun broke out mid-morning and the Medfield Community streamed in. All of the First Parish tables were well attended, and the Clock Tower tours were also a popular destination for many interested in the history of the church.

We were able to raise approximately \$1500 from the activity tables and bake sale.

Thank you to all who participated in making Medfield Days a fun and successful day for First Parish, and especially to those who worked so hard to set up and tend to the tables, the Clock Tower tour guides as well all those who contributed scrumptious homemade baked goods for the bake sale.



FPUU's 109-year-old clock gets cleaning and tune-up



The 15-day Seth Thomas clock which hangs from the balcony was made April 16, 1908 in Thomaston, Connecticut. This summer it was cleaned and repaired by Bill Gruhn, 88, of Medfield, who gave a one-year warranty on his work. Based on his experience getting his own clock fixed, Greg Beedy had recommended Bill earlier this summer.

Upon returning it, Bill noted that an overzealous person once overwound it and twisted the winding shafts; clock winders should be mindful not to do this. Bill also says you should not move the hands backwards to reset; doing so will damage the mechanism on some clocks; why take the chance on this one? If the clock is fast, better to stop the clock (open the case and reach in and stop the pendulum), adjust the speed, and wait and restart by swinging the pendulum when the time is right - or set the clock by moving the hands forward. Lift the

face panel, and you'll find the winding keys inside the clock.

At this writing, the clock getting closer but is still losing time. The slow-fast adjustment is via a knurled knob (that sounds like the beginning of a knock-knock joke) on the bottom of the pendulum. To speed up a clock that runs slow, turn the knob to raise the pendulum slightly. To slow it down, lower the pendulum by turning the knob. It takes several tries to get things right.

The Seth Thomas Clock Company was one of the most prolific and long-lived manufacturers of good quality clocks.

Seth Thomas was born in Wolcott, Connecticut in 1785, went to work for clockmaker Eli Terry in 1807, bought out Terry's factory (together with Silas Hoadley) in 1810, and in December 1813 bought out Heman Clark's clockmaking business in Plymouth Hollow. He continued making clocks until his death in 1859, when his sons and their heirs took over the business and made many innovations. A flood in 1955 severely damaged the factory; a series of sales and reorganizations followed; operations ceased in 2001.

There's more on Seth Thomas at <https://clockhistory.com/sethThomas/company/>



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 on the third Saturday of the month** 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.

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

Upcoming FPUU Volunteer Dates

October 21

November 18

December 16

If you have any questions please contact Duncan Glover at 508-528-8456 or duncanglover@comcast.net

Notes from the Church Office:

Please note: Sandra will be out of town from October 24-October 30th.



Church Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00-2:00
Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org -Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

The deadline for the November Newsletter will be October 22nd



EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse to feature
The Millis-Berfield Band
October 28th



Date: October 28

Time: 7pm-9pm

Cost: \$5 suggested donation (\$3 students

Location: First Parish UU, 26 North Street,
Medfield,

Feature: Millis-Berfield Band

Theme: Movin'

The Millis-Berfield Band features three talented and fun performers who've been playing together for over five years. Their music is a diverse list of covers and originals. Ken Porter (singer and percussionist) has opened for Dave Loggins and performed numerous times with Pete Seeger, The

Kennedys, Kate Campbell, and many others. Bo Veaner (guitar and songwriter) was the lead guitarist and backup vocalist for Gerry Wasserman and The Great Experiment John Zaia (violin, bass) is a classically-trained musician who has worked with Carolyn Waters. *"Uplifting and thoughtful songs; wicked tight harmonies. You'll love them." "A refreshing blend of originals and folk-rock classics, performed with gusto but without bombast. Their whole is more than the sum of its parts; their harmonies are a treat!"*

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.

Teens and adults welcome. Refreshments from Starbucks. Medfield TV films event and posts to Youtube.

Open mic: 5-minute slots for original or non-original poetry, stories, performance art, music or songs. Sticking to theme encouraged. Teens and adults welcome

Coffee Hour Schedule



Thank you Ann Cunningham, Rebecca and David Stephenson and Louise Rachin for hosting Coffee Hours in September.

Schedule for October

Becca Kornet, Coordinator

October 1 – Martha & Patty Castle/Jessica & Nate Razza

October 8 - Martha & Patty Castle/Jessica & Nate Razza

October 15 – The Deltufo/Posner Family

October 22 – Nancy Norris

October 29 – The Harvey Family

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

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.

The following are the Medfield Food Cupboard's current needs: (Donations can be left in the basket in the narthex.)



Canned Fruit

Canned Pasta

White Rice

Sweet/Salty Snacks

Juice (Large and Boxes)

Non-Grape Jelly

Applesauce (6 packs)

Kid Friendly Cereal

Canned Chili or Stew

If you order from Amazon – please use this link!

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/firstparisuuch01>



Support FPUU with Amazon.com (and it's Free!!!)

It won't cost you anything and First Parish will receive 5% of your order! 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?

(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)

FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 1	OWL Begins/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, October 2	Medfield Historical Society Meeting/7:00 pm/Vestry The Larger Circle/7:30-9:30 pm
Thursday, October 5	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Monday, October 9	Columbus Day/Office Closed The Larger Circle/7:30- 9:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, October 12	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds WMC Meeting/7:15-9:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, October 15	Beyond Categorical Thinking/11:30 am/Vestry Anti-racism in the 'burbs/2:00 pm/U-House Medfield Huddle/4:30 pm/Vestry OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, October 16	The Larger Circle/7:30-9:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, October 19	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds Executive Board Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, October 21	New Life Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day
Monday, October 23	The Larger Circle/730-9:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, October 24	RE Committee Meeting/6:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, October 26	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Saturday, October 28	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, October 29	OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, October 30	The Larger Circle/730-9:30 pm/Vestry

