



# First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

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

[www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org)



## December Newsletter 2017

### The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

Sending Christmas cards was my mother's project. In October (!) she would get out a little notebook with every name and address – updated by crossing out the old and writing in the new. She would set up a dedicated card table in the sun of the picture window and pile everything around her. In the book she would write down the year she was sending – '61, '62, '63, '64. She would check to see if the prior year was circled, which meant they had sent us a card. She would write a note, sign, stamp

and hand address every card over maybe a week or ten days – by the middle of November!

And then she would hang every one we got on ribbons by the fireplace, as recalled by a mid-1960s color slide we just found among her things.

Nowadays they are "holiday cards," to include everybody. They are far fewer in number and more often than not arrive somewhere in mid-January. No more stress, right? Well, not quite. I am my mother's son. I get card-anxious every single year.

The dark genius of this time of year, as observed in America, anyway, is that it smothers

us with uncontrollable emotional cues. The weather, the travels, the music, the decorations, the food and drink, the social whirl – and, of course, the-stuff-and-how- we-get-it, or don't. Every "holiday season" we have "celebrated" clutches at us, for good and bad. Usually there are a host of good memories, but still they wear us out.

Some modest advice: It's about a baby – every baby everywhere. Babies like being warm, dry, and comfortably held. They like soothing sounds and gentle words. Stressed and anxious people around them make babies stressed and

anxious. That means you and me. We should all remember our own inner baby, and treat others that same way. When you have to fuss, get it over with quickly. Deep breathing helps.

Remember also how many babies around us and around the world have few or none of what they need to thrive. Denting the car is not that bad a problem after all.

And, of course, stick with your peeps.  
We're here for you, every one.

Best wishes, Rev. David

## Upcoming Services

Sunday – December 3                               **"Faith and Its Discontents"**                               Rev. David W. Chandler

More people in New England than anywhere else in the US now tell pollsters they are "not clear on the concept." Many don't care to be – and many UUs got to there first. Some have good reasons – but will reason sustain our lives? **Religious Exploration.**

Sunday – December 10 **“How Do You Love?”** Rev. David W. Chandler  
 “Who Do You Love?” – that’s Bo Diddley’s question. Adults discover “how” is the real challenge to keeping love alive in long-term relationship. As UUs, we can explore a new path. Let’s be inspired by Sufi tradition and a famous saint. **Religious Exploration.**

Sunday – December 17      **The Winter Solstice for All Ages**      Religious Exploration Committee  
Led by Samantha Decker Nemeth and RE folks, our children invite us to the holidays with joyful celebration of ancient rituals for the shortest day and the changing seasons.

Sunday – December 24 at 5:30 p.m. **Candlelight Christmas Eve for All Ages** Rev. David W. Chandler  
Bring your family and friends to join in the magic. We will have special music, including our Choir. We will have stories traditional and modern from our young adults. We will have singing from all and bright candles of joy and celebration and hope again renewed.

Sunday – December 31                      **"Looking Both Ways"**                      Worship and Music Committee  
Please join Kay Bennett in the Vestry at 10:00 a.m. for a period of reflection on your past year and your hopes for 2018. **No Religious Exploration. No Little Lights childcare.**

## Notes from the Executive Board

Dear Friends:

The Executive Board met on October 26 and on November 16.

At the November meeting, the ministerial search committee's negotiating team presented a draft agreement to be included in our congregational packet that potential ministers will review beginning this month. From the excellent questions they brought, it was abundantly evident that our committee is moving forward with diligence and care. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work. We discussed the proposed terms and, as required by the UUA, approved the budget parameters.

We also discussed whether we should post a sign stating "#2069" on the front lawn of the church. The sign is part of a statewide initiative to build awareness of the opioid crisis; the number represents every Massachusetts resident whose death was attributed to opioids in 2016. In Medfield, the Church of the Advent has also posted the sign. Interpreting this not as a political statement that might require a congregational vote, but as an appropriate token of compassion that draws attention to a problem in our communities, the Board voted to display the sign. You may have already noticed it on our lawn.

A third item on which we took a vote concerned some proposed changes to Articles 3.2 and 3.3 in our by-laws, as proposed by the Membership Committee. These proposed changes are explained in the Warrant for the semi-annual meeting on December 10, when the congregation will be asked to vote on them. The Board supports these emendations.

At the October meeting, we started our major project for the year, which is to create a Policies and Procedures document that will give us greater operational efficiency and also provide helpful guidelines to our next settled minister. As part of this project, we will also create a Board handbook that contains essential documents and records for the current church year, and we aim to figure out the best way to maintain and store all the congregation's records. The EB plans to continue this project throughout the church year, while we can benefit from the experience and wisdom of our interim minister.

At the beginning of this church year, we learned that our congregation had been selected to receive a "growth grant" at First Parish in Malden during a grant luncheon on October 14. The money would be from Tyngsboro UU, which closed and earmarked some of its funds to "promote outreach and church growth within the community and with each other" (award letter). In order to receive this money, we were to send three members to this luncheon and present our plan for using this grant, with a handout for the audience. After the Membership Committee had developed such a plan and the Board had approved it, Margaret Rolph and Katrin Fischer (for the Membership Committee) and I attended the luncheon on October 14 and presented our plan (the handout is included in this month's newsletter), and we returned with a check. I am excited about the good things we will do with this money.

Speaking of money, let me close this note with a plea. Our congregation's pledge payments arrive somewhat erratically, which makes for an inconsistent cash flow. Along with your own life, it would make the life of our treasurer much easier if you all authorized your bank online to send an automatic check with your pledge payment every

month. Some of us have been doing that for years, and it's really easy – I'll be happy to show you if you need help. Thank you for considering this!

See you in church.  
Fritz



## Youth Programs

### Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8th and 9th Graders Ends



We've completed another great year of OWL, educating our 8th and 9th graders on topics including sexuality, healthy choices, defending our beliefs, & relationships; we interacted with guest speakers, went on a field trip, and practiced being parents with our "Baby-think-it-over" dolls. Next up is...



### Coming of Age Begins

Our first session begins Sunday, 12/3 with a hike up Noon Hill using the full moon to guide us. No flashlights, just nature and our senses.

This youth-centric program for 9th and 10th graders is open to family and friends of First Parish with an intent to expose participants to discussions and experiences including life perspectives/philosophy, morals, spirituality and service.

For more information email Cissy: [hoothootvalues@gmail.com](mailto:hoothootvalues@gmail.com)

**Thank  
You.**

### ***Medfield Community Gives to Food Cupboard***

Through generous contributions at the Medfield Community Thanksgiving Service, \$398.00 was given to the Medfield Food Cupboard.

## Update from the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)

Greetings! The MSC has been meeting weekly to plan for and execute the numerous activities associated with our search for a new minister. Here are a few highlights:

1. Congregational Survey: The Survey that many of you responded to (55% response rate) has yielded a wealth of information! We will continue to share the results, a few questions at a time, through email &/or postings on the bulletin board in the vestry. If you would like to review the full Survey, please contact Chris Flaherty at [chris\\_flaherty@verizon.net](mailto:chris_flaherty@verizon.net)
2. Input Sessions: Thanks to those who participated in our input sessions back in September. We held 3 sessions for adults and 1 for children, and once again, we had good participation. Themes from these sessions include: the need for improved communication among congregants, a desire for growth in membership, and a need to focus on our children and the RE program. If you would like to review the full summary of the input sessions, contact Sarah Zitoli at [sezitoli@hotmail.com](mailto:sezitoli@hotmail.com) or Karen Wians at [wianskbad@verizon.net](mailto:wianskbad@verizon.net)
3. One of the most significant products of the MSC's work is the creation of the Congregational Packet (CP), which is essentially a complete resume of FPUU Medfield. We are in need of photos of congregational activities over the last 2 years e.g. coffee houses, potluck gatherings, New Life Home Refurnishing volunteers. Do you have any such photos of events/activities that we might include in the CP? If so, please **forward by December 8th** to Jessica Razza at [jrrazza@gmail.com](mailto:jrrazza@gmail.com)

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate the path to a new minister for FPUU Medfield. Co-chairs Shirley Riga and Karen Wians are available to you, as is the suggestion box in the Vestry next to the ID drop-off box.

[shirley\\_riga@yahoo.com](mailto:shirley_riga@yahoo.com)  
[wianskbad@verizon.net](mailto:wianskbad@verizon.net)

## The Medfield Food Cupboard has the following current needs:

PB  
Jelly  
Raisins  
Fruit Cocktail

Canned Pasta  
Chili  
Beef Stew  
Canned Corn

Tomato Products  
Juice (large and boxes)  
Kid Friendly Cereal  
Sweet/Salty Snacks



Please double check your food items to ensure that they are undented, unopened, and unexpired. Thanks for your efforts. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

# **FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

28 North Street • P.O. Box 215 • Medfield, Massachusetts 02052-0215  
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*Rev. David W. Chandler, Interim Minister*

## **How we intend to use our growth grant:**

Our general goal will be to make people in Medfield and the surrounding communities more aware of our existence, and to invite them in to meet and get to know us.



To this end, we plan to undertake the following activities:

### **(1) Outside the church:**

- a. Create a welcome packet to be distributed to new families in town, via local realtors.
- b. Create durable signs to be displayed inside our Wayside Pulpit, to draw the attention of passing pedestrians and motorists to special features and worship services offered by our church. Such signs could point to our:
  - i. Welcome Sunday (first Sunday of the church year);
  - ii. Candlelight Service (for Christmas Eve);
  - iii. Flower Communion (for the last Sunday of the church year);
  - iv. Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse (last Saturday of each month);
  - v. Green Sanctuary accreditation (for which we seek to be locally known).
- c. Create additional signs for rotating display there, e.g.:
  - i. Worship 10 a.m. (for any Sunday service), or
  - ii. Welcoming All, or
  - iii. Teach Peace, or
  - iv. Seven Principles? Ask us!

### **(2) Inside the church:**

- a. Create a number of eye-catching displays about the history of our church, in collaboration with the Medfield Historical Society (with whom we have a working relationship). Since we have a large amount of significant historical material, we plan to put together different “exhibitions,” to rotate throughout the year, and also use them on Medfield Day, when we invite the community for tours of our historic building.
- b. Create new brochures for visitors about our history, our work, and our community activities (such as our No Idling initiative undertaken by our Green Sanctuary Committee).

### **(3) We also plan to use some of these materials to reach out to local media, to draw attention to our congregation and its activities.**

## **Semi-Annual Meeting- December 10<sup>th</sup>**

FPUU's semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, beginning after the service at 11:15 a.m. Only members may vote, but we encourage all members and friends to attend.

The Warrant is also posted in the Vestry and the U-House.

-- Darline Lewis, Clerk

### **Warrant**

#### **Semi-Annual Meeting First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield, MA**

**December 10, 2017 at 11:15 AM**

The Executive Board hereby notifies all voting members of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield of the Semi-Annual Parish Meeting, to be held in the Sanctuary of First Parish at 11:15 AM on Sunday, December 10, 2017. A quorum of 25 percent of Full Members eligible to vote at the time of posting of this notice must be present to conduct the business of the Congregation. This translates to 21 members.

In accordance with the Bylaws of First Parish Medfield (approved on June 3, 2012) in Article 4.2, the Semi-Annual Meeting is described as follows:

#### **Article 4.2 Midyear Meeting**

Article 4.2.1 Time and Place: A semi-annual Parish meeting is held in the fall between the first day of November and the last day of December.

Article 4.2.2 Purpose: The semi-annual Parish meeting shall be held to update the Congregation on the status of the Church at the time of the meeting and conduct any other business as determined by the Executive Board.

The following topics will be addressed at the Semi-Annual Meeting:

- Financial update
- A vote to amend FPUU Bylaws Article 3 as recommended by the Membership Committee:

***Motion:*** to make revisions to existing Article 3 "Membership" as follows:

**"Article 3 – MEMBERSHIP"**



### **Article 3.1 Continuances**

*All persons whose names appear as members on any of the records of the Society at the adoption of these articles shall continue as members of this Society.*

### **Article 3.2 Types of Membership**

*There shall be the following types of membership:*

*Article 3.2.1 Member: A person who has (i) formally joined the Society and makes a contribution of record ~~minimum annual financial contribution set by the Executive Board~~ unless the Minister waives all or part of such a commitment based on financial hardship, will be a "Member".*

*Article 3.2.2 Friend of First Parish: Persons who are unable to attend the Society on a regular basis, or persons who choose not to become members, but who desire to maintain a relationship with the Society, may be deemed Friends of First Parish. Friends may not vote at Society meetings or elections, nor hold Society office. Friends may, however, serve on Society committees and teams with the exception of the Executive Board and the Nominating Committee.*

### **Article 3.3 Membership Guidelines**

*Article 3.3.1 Requirements: Any person in sympathy with the stated purpose of this Society may apply for membership. No person shall be required to subscribe to any particular interpretation of religion or any particular religious belief or creed to obtain and hold membership.*

*Article 3.3.2 Right to Vote: The right to vote at meetings of the Parish shall be reserved for those who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and are Members, as described in Article 3.2.1.*

*Article 3.3.3 Annulments: Any Member may withdraw from membership, ~~or become inactive,~~ by notifying ~~the Clerk~~ ~~Executive Board~~ or the Minister in writing.*

*Article 3.3.4 Absences: Members who are not seen or heard from by the Congregation shall be contacted by either a member of ~~the Membership Committee~~ ~~Executive Board~~ or the Minister to determine whether or not they wish to remain Members. The Executive Board may remove from the active membership rolls any Member who cannot be contacted or has not responded to communication for 24 months.*

*Article 3.3.5 Restrictions: The Executive Board or the Minister may ~~act vote~~ to restrict the activity of a Member who behaves in a manner inconsistent with the stated purposes of the Parish, to the significant detriment of the organization, or any individual."*

- Update from the Ministerial Search Committee
- Report on the general state of the Church
- Any other business that may be put forward by those present.

We will convene right after an abbreviated coffee hour. The meeting should last about one and a half hours. Thank you on behalf of the Executive Board. Childcare will be provided.



# **The Medfield Garden Club Holiday Greens Sale**

## **The First Parish UU of Medfield**



**Saturday, December 2nd**  
**10 a.m. until noon**

Christmas wreaths, swags, kissing balls, basket arrangements, centerpieces, cemetery memorials, and the Garden Club's well-known miniature boxwood trees will all be available for sale. This is the Club's primary fundraiser and the proceeds support the Club's efforts to beautify the town, including the 19 roadside gardens.



**Come early for the best selection!**

## You're Invited!



Join us to hang the greens and decorate the church on **Saturday, December 2 at 2 PM.**

Please come and join in the holiday spirit. There will be something for everyone to do and all ages are welcome. We need lots of hands to hang the wreaths, put up the tree and place the pew bows. Thank you and any questions please call Rebecca Stephenson 508 740-0663

## Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange

**With the holidays quickly approaching, please remember that 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>



## Please join us for the First Parish Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

Bring your family and friends to join in the magic. We will have special music, including our Choir. We will have stories traditional and modern from our young adults. We will have singing from all and bright candles of joy and celebration and hope renewing itself.



### 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](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator



## EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

On December 30, Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse will once again host an international dance party.

From 7pm-10pm, we will have an open mic, international folk dancing led by a professional dance caller, and music by The Larger Circle Band. We'll have complimentary hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and a cash bar. Share a poem, story, or song in the open mic. Teens and adults welcome. Learn to dance! Join in the fun!



## FPUU Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 2	Medfield Garden Club Greens Sale/10-12/Vestry Hanging of the Greens/2:00 pm/Sanctuary
Sunday, December 3	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary CoA Begins
Monday, December 4	The Larger Circle Band Practice/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, December 10	Semi-Annual Meeting/11:15 am/Sanctuary
Monday, December 11	The Larger Circle Band Practice/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, December 12	Ministerial Search Committee Meeting/6:15 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, December 13	Chanukah Begins
Thursday, December 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Saturday, December 18	NewLife Refurnishing Volunteer Day/Walpole
Sunday, December 17	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Ministerial Search Committee/11:30 am/Vestry Medfield Huddle/4:30 pm/Vestry CoA Meeting/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, December 18	The Larger Circle Band Practice/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, December 19	Choir Rehearsal/7:00 pm/Sanctuary Executive Board meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service/5:30 pm/Sanctuary
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 26	Membership Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, December 30	Expresso Yourself Coffeehouse/7:00 pm/Vestry

