



*First Parish Unitarian  
Universalist of  
Medfield*

26 North Street, Medfield,  
MA

(508) 359-4594

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



## January Newsletter 2018

### The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

There are at least two auxiliary seasons we can contemplate this time of year. In the upcountry at least, there will be "mud season," especially where most of the roads and all of the driveways are unpaved. Right now we are getting another favorite, "deep winter." This is also known as, "you-could-die-out-there."

It's winking in our direction about a month earlier than the norm. The good news may be that

we will also get it out of the way earlier than the norm. We'll see about that.

In the meantime, there are good reasons to hold ourselves to a seasonal direction that says to slow down, to enter the darkness as a time of potential calming, to feel the strength of our endurance through adversity, to enjoy the warmth of others around us, and to resist the eternal temptation to wish we were anywhere else than just where we are. This can be the rooted place of resilience, in our lives and the world. To be hopeful

of the future requires us to be grounded in the present, confident in where we are without needing to be any place else – and yet we know we are heading there when the time in fact arrives, which it will.

This is a similar cycle in the Search process for a new minister. Our congregational Record has been up for a few weeks, but ministers get busy during the holidays and at least some who will seriously look have not yet done so. The online process encourages ministers to click through and flag any congregation that may appeal to them, but serious looking is a great deal more

considered. There is a lot to read and think about, not just what you see posted but who you are and who you hope to be in this new community. Over the coming weeks our Search Committee will hear from people who are serious about First Parish. This is, of course, the only people you actually want to talk to. Nobody has any clue (I assure you) how many that may be.

In the meantime, as the saying goes, Keep Calm and Carry On.

This is a good thing.

Best wishes, Rev. David

## Upcoming Services

Sunday – January 7

**“A 2018 Janus Service”**

Rev. David W. Chandler

The holidays fade, the New Year begins, the depth of winter comes – and our feelings may be ambivalent. This Sunday we will have rituals of Endings and Beginnings, letting go of what must now be past and welcoming our hopes and dreams for 2018. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – January 14

**“Denying the Dream”**

Rev. David W. Chandler

It is risky to channel historic figures into the present day, but there are good reasons to pause and reflect this Martin Luther King Sunday on what Dr. King might say about dehumanization and scapegoating of other people. He was pretty clear. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – January 21

**“Gilded Splinters”**

Rev. David W. Chandler

“Winner-take-all” is one increasingly common description of American society. Few experts dispute the chasm of inequality, but fewer agree what might heal it. Is it a fault in our stars or in our systems? Or is it a grudge birthed in darker places? **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – January 28

**Special Service**

Worship and Music Committee

Elvis Hedji, who is from Sudan, will be our guest speaker on behalf of the Humanity Helping Sudan Project. **Religious Education offered for children.**

## From the Board: End of Year Tax Alert

Dear FPUU Families,



As you are aware, Congress passed and the President has signed into law a tax bill that will implement significant changes to the U.S. tax code.

Many of the provisions in the bill take effect January 1, 2018. Notably, there will be an increase in the "standard deduction" which, in most cases, is going to be doubled from previous levels. The increased standard deduction could eliminate for some taxpayers the incentive to report "itemized deductions," such as contributions to charitable organizations.

In addition, other itemized deductions, including state taxes and property taxes, will be capped,

decreasing the amount of total itemized deductions available to taxpayers.

As such, beginning in 2018 many taxpayers may no longer receive a benefit from itemizing deductions. Many non-profit organizations, including churches, have expressed concern about these changes.

We don't know what the long-term implications are, but we would like to encourage everyone to review your personal situation and determine how these new rules will impact you. Your contributions for 2017 can still be made before the new law takes effect. If it will benefit you (or even if it doesn't☺), please consider paying your FPUU pledge before December 31, 2017.

Thank you for your generous support of our church.

Sincerely,  
Nate Razza, Treasurer

## Update from the Ministerial Search Committee

We've been meeting on a weekly or more basis. We're happy to say we're half way through – we started in July of 2017.

- ✓ Congregational Survey was completed successfully and gave us a lot of information. We continue to display results on bulletin board
- ✓ Beyond Categorical Thinking was completed which fulfilled a requirement to the UUA.
- ✓ We've completed the Congregational Record of what FPUU Medfield has to offer a prospective minister. It's a 17-page document in summary form available on line to prospective ministers to view who we are and what we have to offer. It is now live on the UUA website not available for public viewing except ministerial candidates.
- ✓ In early January we will hear from our Ministerial Search Representative from the UUA of the prospective ministers interested in FPUU Medfield. Then we start the interview process
- ✓ We are working on completing the Congregational Packet which is approximately a 50-page document which will be available online to prospective ministers we choose to interview.

## Executive Board Notes



Dear Friends:  
The Executive

Board met on December 19, the day Congress passed its new tax bill. That bill, since then signed into law, has big consequences for all nonprofit organizations, including ours.

While the new tax law limits the deductibility of state and local taxes to \$ 10,000 per filer (same for single filers and for married couples), it raises the standard deduction to \$ 12,000 for individuals and \$ 24,000 for married couples. This means that many people who itemized their deductions in the past will now claim the standard deduction. It also means that many of our members and friends will no longer be able to deduct their pledge payments to First Parish.

We did not discuss this matter at our Board meeting, but a discussion evolved by e-mail over the next several days, and

our Treasurer sent out an e-mail suggesting that congregants prepay their current pledges before the end of this month. This way, they would still be able to deduct their entire pledge for the current church year. I am reiterating this message here, in case you did not read Nate's e-mail.

Our Board meeting itself was as undramatic as it was productive. Among other things, we approved expenses for repairing the U House porch (you may have noticed the difference), and we continued with our year-long project to review and revise FPUU's Policies and Procedures Manual, so the Board can have greater operational efficiency and be more forward-focused. In concert with this, we need to decide the format in which to keep records (paper or electronic, or both), as well as where to store them and how to give general access to them.

With advice from Rev. David, the Board has also been discussing certain matters regarding its personnel, such as job descriptions, and lines of authority and responsibility. We

also plan to reach out to all standing committees with a request to review their responsibilities and procedures, so we can update the descriptions submitted by the committees to the Board earlier in this decade. The desired goal is a document that can serve as a helpful reference for our new minister, as well as congregants who may be interested in joining a committee. When our new minister arrives, it would be beneficial to have most documentation centrally located and available. We have also discussed creating a handbook for the Board in which to consolidate and centralize information and records. This project will keep us busy well into the New Year, and I will keep you updated as it evolves.

Thank you for all your work and support this past year. In these times, it feels more important than ever to affirm and strengthen our community of memory and hope. I send you my best wishes for 2018 and look forward to seeing you in church!

Fritz



## Happy Anniversary To our Longstanding First Parish Members!

Eve Potts has been a member since  
December 23, 1962 - 55 years!

Howard Kane has been a member since  
January 9, 1953 - 65 years!

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### Holiday Giving Tree – Help Spread Some Warmth This Season



Our brightly decorated  
Christmas tree is a tree  
of hope again this

year. You are invited to bring warm clothing items  
and place them around the tree. Hats, gloves and  
mittens, scarves and warm socks will all help our  
neighbors. On  
Jan. 14, Martin  
Luther King, Jr.  
Sunday, we will  
collect the  
donated items  
and pass them along. Thank you for helping.  
– Religious Exploration



### A Note Regarding the Kitchen...



For many years we have  
had a cabinet to the left  
of the kitchen sink  
labeled "recyclables" and  
we seldom used  
it. Instead we had

recyclables containers on the kitchen  
floor. So finally we got the message and are  
using the containers in the cabinet. Guess we  
are slow learners! And please don't leave  
food on the containers. The ants love it.  
- Thanks, the kitchen lady



**Saturday, January 27th**

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**LOCATION: First Parish UU  
26 North Street, Medfield, MA**

The *Expresso 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.

Come and join in the fun, either to enjoy as an audience member or to participate. Open mic readers have 5 minutes to share. Teens and adults welcome.

Refreshments from Starbucks are served.  
Medfield TV films event and posts to  
You-tube.  
\$5 suggested donation (\$3 students).

## CoA Schedule for January

Sunday, Jan. 7th is The Hike! We'll meet at 6 in the vestry and then go to Noon Hill (the actual hill) - Chris and David will be making the pilgrimage this year. We're also meeting the 21st, and 28th of January.

If you have talked about mentors and have one in mind, please Cissy know. If you're not sure, also let me know and we can make suggestions.

In February, one of our activities is the trip to the MFA with Bill Wians. He's looking at dates and we'll let you know soon.

## 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



## January Flower Donations

January 7 – Louise Rachin  
January 14 – Louise Rachin  
January 21 – Linda Finkle  
January 28 – Louise Rachin

## Coffee Hour Host Schedule

January 7 Drumm Family  
January 14 Mastronardi Family  
January 21 Open  
January 28 Open



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

## Christmas Eve Candle Light Service Donation

We are pleased to announce that a total of \$822.00 was split between First Parish, Family Promise Metrowest and NewLife Furniture Bank of MA, following the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service.



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## 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>

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## The 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. These are the current needs:

Kid Friendly Cereal  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Tuna (Solid white in water preferred)  
Cans of Chicken  
Juice (Large, Boxes)

Canned Fruit  
Sweet/Salty Snacks (cookies/crackers)  
Spaghetti (well stocked on all other pasta)  
Pasta sauce  
Canned pasta

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.

# FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, January 1	New Year's Day/Office Closed The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Friday, January 5	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting/Offsite
Sunday, January 7	Pledge Drive Committee Meeting/11:30 am/U-House Search Committee Meeting/11:30 am/Vestry
Monday, January 8	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, January 9	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, January 10	Search Committee Meeting/6:45 pm/Vestry
Thursday, January 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/Vestry
Sunday, January 14	Search Committee Meeting/11:30 am/Vestry
Monday, January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Office Closed The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, January 17	Search Committee Meeting/6:45 pm/Vestry
Thursday, January 18	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, January 20	NewLife Furniture Bank Volunteer Day/Walpole
Sunday, January 21	Medfield Huddle/4:30 pm/Vestry Newsletter Deadline
Monday, January 22	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, January 23	Membership Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, January 24	Search Committee Meeting/6:45 pm/Vestry
Thursday, January 25	Religious Exploration Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/Vestry
Saturday, January 27	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry
Monday, January 29	Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry Monday, January

