



*First Parish Unitarian
Universalist of
Medfield*

**26 North Street, Medfield,
MA**

(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org



*We strive to live with deep respect and love for life,
To embrace the challenge of human differences,
To foster spiritual growth and to work toward a just
and sustainable world,
Beginning with our own and nearby communities.*

February Newsletter 2018

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

I've heard no self-respecting Texan considers proper chili has beans in it. I'm not sure what Irish chili has – Guinness Draught? Green chili peppers? I'll find out on St. Patrick's Day this year, at the Great FPUU Chili Cook-off. I hope you will be there. Don't worry, there will be vegan and gluten-free chili – we already Googled the recipes.

There will be lots of good music from the Millis-Barfield Band. There will be lots of good food and drink. And there will be lots of good company – because the cook-off is also the kick-off. The Kick-off Cook-off is this year's version of the traditional jumpstart to the annual fund drive

that will gather in your pledges to support the church for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2018. There is no pledging at the event and no charge to attend. It will be family friendly, so bring the kids. If you won't try the green chili they sure will!

While you are saving the evening of Mar. 17 for the Cook-off Kickoff, the Fund Drive Committee also has some other dates in mind. If you will be a canvasser, plan on Sunday, Mar. 11 to pick up your pledge list. No experience? No problem – training will be given that afternoon, starting at 11:30 with free lunch for participants. Mar. 18 will be Pledge Drive Sunday, with special

programming. Small Suppers are being planned for Saturday, April 7 and you will be invited, so save that evening also. April 8 will be Commitment Sunday, when we gather in the final pledges and congratulate each other for ensuring another good year for First Parish.

You remember that the way to ensure any year is a good year is to bring yourself to our church community. Caring and sharing with each other is what make it all go, and the energy and

enthusiasm of the annual fund drive starts the cycle of renewal. We need your pledge of presence and participation equally with the appropriate level of financial support only you can provide.

And remember we plan to call a minister this spring. A strong pledge drive is the best signal you can send!

Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – February 4

“Groundhog Day-after”

Rev. David W. Chandler

Bill Murray and Andi McDowell’s famous movie was released in 1993. We likely got the joke a long time ago. But after 25 years, what happens to us on Feb. 3, the day *after* Groundhog Day? The groundhog goes home – where do we go? **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – February 11

“All Hat (and No Cattle)”

Rev. David W. Chandler

Ministry is not a profession for the shy or uncertain – not, at least, for those who can’t adapt to the demands of public leadership. Here are some thoughts about what to expect in the way of adaptation, and how to consider it healthy – or not. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – February 18

“Granite Statues, Feet of Clay”

Bill Wians

Who gets a statue in a public place, and why? Who doesn’t, and how do they feel about that? How does an artifact on display have meaning? Whose meaning should it be and why does that matter? Bill is on our Worship and Music Committee. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – February 25

“A Flexible Certainty”

Rev. David W. Chandler

UU belief and UU practice have a certain relationship of disjunction. We have some idiosyncratic ways of bringing faith and works into alignment, but they are also distinctive strengths if we grasp the need for pragmatism in our certainties. **Religious Education offered for children.**

Ministerial Search Committee Update



Greetings from your Ministerial Search Committee! Our New Year began with great excitement as we awaited word from the UUA's Transitions Office about ministerial candidates interested in ministry at FPUU Medfield.

We are happy to report that there are ministerial candidates who have expressed interest in FPUU Medfield. Their interest is based on viewing our "Congregational Record", a 10+ page document that is basically a resume of our parish, as well as viewing the results of our Congregational Survey completed in Fall 2017.

The UUA then granted us access to the interested candidates' "Ministerial Records" (their resumes) for our review. The MSC followed with a robust schedule of January meetings to review and act on the potential candidates. The next step was to share our Congregational Packet, a website filled with narratives and images of FPUU, with potential candidates who in turn shared their websites (Ministerial Packets) with us.

We prepared for interviewing by conducting a mock interview with Rev. Chandler, which was very helpful – thank you, Rev. David! We then scheduled "Zoom" (all 7 of us on computer screen) interviews with potential candidates.

Please know that the FPUU MSC is on schedule! We may receive additional expressions of interest from potential candidates as January rolls along, which we will monitor for and act upon accordingly.

We appreciate the support of our Executive Board and the entire congregation as we continue the search process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shirley Riga or Karen Wians, co-chairs of the MSC.

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Executive Board Notes

Dear Friends:

I hope you have all reached the New Year in good health and spirits. The Executive Board has not met since I wrote my note for the January newsletter (the January 18 meeting was moved to the 25th), so I have nothing new to report.



The “excitement of the season,” as many of you know, was that some of our heating pipes in the vestry were found frozen on December 29, which led to a week of intense efforts to thaw them – praying that none of them would be found to have burst and that we would not have a flood in our historic space.

Thanks to the untiring labors of David Maxson and Rich Mastronardi, working with our plumber and assisted by various other volunteers, these efforts proved successful when heat was fully restored mid-way through the first week of the New Year. It was a costly affair (the plumber’s bill alone came to \$ 2,540), but far less so than if the pipes had burst. Rich is currently talking to our insurance company to see if any of these expenses can be reimbursed. I am grateful to him and David, and to everyone else who helped out, in getting us through this “excitement.”

I will close by repeating here what I said in church on January 7: we need more people involved in maintaining our historic meetinghouse, more people willing to learn about its inner workings, more people ready to lend a hand when something needs attention. Rich, who is the Board liaison to Buildings and Grounds, is currently restructuring and expanding that committee: if you are able to participate in the effort to maintain our buildings (no technical skills required, just a willingness to help and learn), please talk to Rich (rmastrona@aol.com).

Thank you for being in our community. See you in church!

Fritz



Notes from the Church Office:



Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. – **February 18th**

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



EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

Celebrate with us!

2ND Anniversary Birthday
Bash!

Saturday, February 24

7:00 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: First Parish UU

26 North Street, Medfield, MA

February 2018 is our 2nd anniversary of Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse. So we are having a big birthday bash, with cake and prizes and fun on February 24th.

Our feature will actually be some of our past features rejoining us for the celebration. So far included are slam poet Amy Mevorach, storyteller Jan Krause-Greene, singer/songwriter Jacob Haller, and singer/storyteller Cheryl "Melody" Baskin.



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.

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.

\$5 suggested donation (\$3 students)



Save The Date

Annual Fund Drive

Cook Off Challenge

Featuring

the Millis-Berfield

Band

WHERE: FPUU Vestry

WHEN: Saturday, March 17th

TIME: 7:00 p.m.



February Flower Donations

February 4 – Mary Corthell
February 11 – Mary Corthell
February 18 – Mary Corthell
February 25– Becca & John Kornet

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>

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:

Cookies/crackers
Tuna (solid white preferred)
PB
Jelly

Canned chicken
Canned fruit
Rice
Kid friendly cereal

Juice-large and boxes

Thanks to the community's generosity, we are currently fully stocked on soup. 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, February 5	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Sanctuary Medfield Historical Society/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 6	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, February 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Monday, February 12	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 13	Pledge Drive Committee/7:00 pm/Offsite
Wednesday, February 14	Valentine's Day
Thursday, February 15	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, February 17	New Life Furniture Bank Volunteer Day/Walpole
Sunday, February 18	Medfield Huddle/4:30 pm/Vestry Newsletter Deadline
Monday, February 19	President's Day/Office Closed The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, February 22	Religious Exploration Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/Vestry
Saturday, February 24	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry
Monday, February 26	Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 27	Membership Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry

