



**First Parish  
Unitarian Universalist  
of Medfield**  
**26 North Street, Medfield, MA**  
**(508) 359-4594**  
[www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org)



## May 2018 Newsletter

### The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

The interim transition is one congregational process that is supposed to come to an end. It is unlike most other elements of congregational life, which tend to wax and wane in intensity but flow on from year to year or even from decade to decade. The Interim Minister is supposed to arrive, help with the process, and then go away. That can be hard.

Well, did we get everything done? Did we accomplish everything this congregation wants to have in hand before your new settled minister

arrives? Probably not -- it is an unrealistic expectation to think such a thing would ever happen in a human community. The interim does have a two-year timetable and we work from a list and we do -- and this is crucial -- broadly agree on what steps are critical. Interim ministry is as much about agreeing on the steps, which are the expressed and implicit needs of the people, as it is about somehow getting them all sorted. Your local car dealer does not sell all the iron on the lot and then close up shop. Neither does a church.

Our “inventory,” our stock-in-trade if you will, is people. People come and go. Our lives ebb and flow. Every one of us is different today than we were yesterday or will be tomorrow. As individuals, we present essentially the same needs over and over in different ways over a lifetime. As a group we live out together all those ways in the explicit circumstances of this time and this place, even as we know it can never be exactly the same for any of us.

The truly hard part of the interim process is parting from the people. But I believe, and your

Executive Board and the Interim Transition Team concur, that you have accomplished the things most needed in the current transition. It is as finished as it will ever get, ready to make growing room for the way you will be together going forward. You are ready. You deserve all the credit for this. You did the work. You reset the relationships, affirming what has sustained you and owning what needed to be renewed or revisioned.

Congratulations.

Best wishes, Rev. David

## Upcoming Services

Sunday – May 6

**“Asking for Help”**

Rev. David W. Chandler

It is a truism that help often comes from sources unlooked for. It might, on the other hand, speed things up if we did some looking in places that may be unfamiliar or even uncomfortable. I’m not using the “p” word here, really – I’m just saying. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – May 13

**Music Sunday for All Ages**

Eva Kendrick, Director of Music

Our singers and players invite you to sing or play or just listen to some of the wonderful music we are fortunate to enjoy at First Parish. See Eva’s article for more information.

Sunday – May 20

**Coming of Age Service**

COA and RE Committee

Our young people and their mentors have thoughts for us. They’ve been working on it for some months. They will also help design the service. RE Recognition will be included so we can celebrate how important raising the future is, and how much fun.

Sunday – May 27

**“Pass the Ballots”**

Rev. David W. Chandler

The most tumultuous electoral politics in a century has gone on for almost three years, with an end less and less in sight. Long-term grievances, short-term maneuvers, rage and rancor – will America just keep boiling over? Maybe we are broken. **No RE today.**

## Annual Meeting

Our First Parish Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, May 20, after Sunday Services. We will receive reports, elect church officers, and approve an Annual Budget for July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019. The meeting will begin at 11:45 to allow for the Coming of Age Coffee Hour Reception. A quorum of members must be present to conduct business. Members and friends are welcome to attend but only members may vote.

– Executive Board

## Notes from the Executive Board



Dear Friends:

As you saw from the article by our Ministerial Search Committee, they will not

present a ministerial candidate to our congregation at this time. The search committee has worked diligently to do what is right for First Parish, and we owe them thanks for their hard work: Shirley Riga and Karen Wians (co-chairs), Chris Flaherty, Duncan Glover, Jessica Razza, Rebecca Stephenson, and Sarah Zitoli. All seven are also committed to continuing their work for next year's search. Thank you, one and all!

The good news is that Rev. David Chandler has agreed to stay with us as a contract minister, subject to arrangements with the UUA Transitions Office. The Board has voted unanimously to appoint Rev. David to this position. We are grateful for his willingness to continue his valuable work with us and look forward to having him with us next year.

Many good things have happened at First Parish since I last wrote to you; let me just highlight two.

- (1) The repair work initiated and overseen by the Buildings and Grounds Committee is continuing. You may have noticed that the large hole on the left side of the vestry entryway, which had been made to provide access to a frozen pipe last December, has now been closed up. Another visible improvement is coming up in the kitchen: Eve Potts and Susan Stromgren met with representatives from both the Medfield and the Massachusetts Board of Health to determine what renovations are needed there to meet all regulatory requirements. As a result, we will be installing a new counter with a triple sink (two for dishes,

one for washing hands) as well as a new dish washer. This will not only assure our continued certification by the Board of Health, but also open up new opportunities for rentals. Thanks to all who are doing this important work!

- (2) In last year's annual report, I informed you about the project to digitize certain First Parish documents held by the Medfield Historical Society, and about our conversations with the MHS to resolve the ownership question. Earlier this month, the Congregational Library & Archives announced that their "New England's Hidden Histories" project (under whose auspices our documents are to be digitized) had received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This means that funds are now available to proceed with our documents as well. I am happy to tell you that Board member Darline Lewis has collected our documents from the MHS, delivered them to the CLA in Boston, and drafted a carefully worded loan agreement with the CLA, which I have signed. You will hear more about this project in the future – it is a milestone not only for preserving our congregation's history, but also for future local collaborations to weave that history into Medfield's self-representation as a town with a rich and fascinating past. Thank you, Darline, for your dedicated effort!

Since this is the last newsletter column I am writing as your Board chair, I will take the

liberty to comment on two events in April in which I was personally involved.

- (1) The Earth Day service on April 22, led by the Green Sanctuary Committee, included some of our congregation's children in two short playlets, in which the adults pledged to protect the environment for coming generations. The adults attending the service also pledged to help the children with creating a garden at First Parish. It was a lively and moving example of an intergenerational service, and I hope we can have more of these in the future. (I was also asked by several people to share my closing words more widely, so you will find them elsewhere in this newsletter).
- (2) On April 28, the Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse featured our church band, The Larger Circle. Led by professional dance caller Jacob Bloom, our audience danced

into Spring with a variety of international dances from Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Israel, and Spain. For me, it was one of the highlights of this church year. Let me close, then, with the poem by Wendell Berry, after which we named our band:

We clasp the hands of those that go before us,  
And the hands of those who come after us.  
We enter the little circle of each other's arms  
And the larger circle of lovers,  
Whose hands are joined in a dance,  
And the larger circle of all creatures,  
Passing in and out of life,  
Who move also in a dance,  
To a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it  
Except in fragments.  
See you in church.  
Fritz

## Closing Words on Earth Day 2018

The environmental degradation of the planet is the deciding issue of our age.

In this space of memory and hope, we have talked about the concept of "sanctuary" as shelter from the coming storms. Our commitment to the Green Sanctuary concept means that we commit to both prevention and adjustment – and that we invest in each other.

The details of our personal lives look insignificant when we look at the looming crises before us. But we need to start in our personal lives. All the values that we hold dear, that are expressed in the first six UU principles, are in jeopardy if the basis for living is eroded. Our imagination is challenged to envision the coming decades, in which the greenhouse gas emissions already in the atmosphere today will change the climate and the seasons, subverting the ways of abundance to which we have become accustomed. As individuals, we become easy prey to dystopian fears and fantasies; as a community, we can face reality together.

To be any kind of sanctuary, we must be a "green" sanctuary – with and for each other.

## Green Sanctuary Update



Thank you everyone who participated or listened to the Green Sanctuary Committee Earth Day service. In our service, not only did we think about the big picture of why Earth Day was created in 1970 because of the concern about the environment, we offered an action plan to First Parish that was actually started by the children of our congregation.

Last month, the children said they wanted a garden. The GS Committee felt it was our obligation to listen and help the children get their wish. And in our service, we made a covenant with them. A questionnaire went out to the congregation, resulting in enthusiastic responses. 80% of the respondents want a flower and vegetable garden; a few suggested native species.

Another suggestion was a hummingbird feeder (Marshall even offered to donate one). 18 adults offered to help with the children's garden. As Mary Corthell summed it up, "This is fantastic. Together we will create and maintain the garden." Your GS committee is honored to have facilitated this new activity at First Parish, and we are grateful to the children that they made their wishes clear.

## Ministerial Search Committee Update



Spring greetings (has it finally arrived?) from your Ministerial Search Committee! We have important news to share with you.

As you may recall, the "first round" of the UUA search process ended in late March; we did not find a suitable ministerial candidate during the first round of the search.

Ministers and congregations that did not find a match during the "first round" could then select to enter the "second round". FPUU entered the second round, and April was a busy month of second round activities.

Unfortunately, we must report that our 2017-18 search process has concluded without a ministerial candidate to bring forward to the FPUU congregation. As disappointing as this is, we are confident that we conducted the search thoroughly and objectively.

Even as this year's search concludes, MSC members must observe strict confidentiality related to the number and/or nature of candidates and our related deliberations.

All of us on the MSC want to thank you for your continued support and patience throughout this search year. The Executive Board will update the congregation on future plans.

Shirley Riga & Karen Wians, co-chairs,  
Chris Flaherty,  
Duncan Glover  
Jess Razza  
Rebecca Stephenson  
Sarah Zitoli



## Coming of Age Service Sunday, May 20

Our small but mighty group invites you to their Coming of Age service on Sunday, May 20th.

Facilitated at First Parish Medfield every two years, this celebration has its roots in a long time UU tradition. It's kind of a "state of the union" address - our two participants, accompanied by their mentors, will share with the congregation their credo as it's developed so far. This time around, we have utilized TED talks, discussed art, shared moments of zen, talked about teleology and cosmology, hiked Noon Hill in the dark and looked at art from different civilizations that reflected their beliefs.

Louise Rachin and Chris Conley are our mentors this year, and they'll be saying a few words about their mentees - "The Sammys" -at our service. We hope you can join us!



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## Sandra will be away in May

**Please note:** Sandra Andreassi, our Administrator, will be away Thursday, May 3, until Monday, May 14. She will not be able to respond to routine matters like calendar and announcements. In an emergency, please contact Rev. David or Fritz Fleischmann.

– Executive Board

**Join Us for the  
Project Bread 50th Anniversary Walk for Hunger  
Sunday May 6, 2018!!**



**Over the past 50 years Project Bread has provided  
one billion meals to hungry people in Massachusetts.**



**Contact Louise Rachin at 617-429-7319 or [lrachin@comcast.net](mailto:lrachin@comcast.net)  
If you'd like to walk with Team First Parish  
or if you would like to make a contribution.**

# Medfield Garden Club

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-12**

First Parish UU Medfield  
26 North Street



spring plant  
**sale**

Perennials, ground covers, edibles, native plants and saplings.

The proceeds from this sale help the Garden Club maintain nearly twenty road-side gardens all around Medfield.





**Join Us...**



## **Community Conversation Event**

A community conversation on aging for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults in the metro west area.

**Monday, May 7, 2018**

**5:00 – 7:30 PM**

**First Parish Unitarian Universalist  
26 North Street, Medfield, MA 02052**

This dinner meeting is for any community members, LGBT older adults, leaders, allies, friends and elder service providers who are interested in reaching out to the LGBT older adult population in our community.

**RSVP by May 2, 2018**

**Jayne Davis 781-784-4944, [JDavis@HESSCO.org](mailto:JDavis@HESSCO.org)**

A light dinner will be served. Transportation assistance is available.  
There is ample non-metered North Street parking available.

A suggested donation for the meal of \$3.00 for seniors and \$6.00 for anyone under age 60 is welcome but not required.

**Support for this event provided in part by the Metro West Health Foundation**

## Farmers' Market to begin again on June 14th!



The Medfield Farmers' Market will return to the grounds of our Church for a 7<sup>th</sup> season on **Thursday, June 14th from 2:00 to 6:30 pm**

Susan Stromgren is the Market Manager.



**Lots of new vendors including farms providing lamb, beef and pork, and fruit from Fairmont Fruit Farm, along with lots of veggies, flowers and more from White Barn Farm.**



White Barn Farm is a small vegetable farm and [farm stand](#) in Wrentham, Massachusetts. The farmers are dedicated to using organic [farming methods](#) and believe in the importance of growing food for their community. They hope to inspire the locals to eat in season and take the extra moments to prepare wonderful meals for the people they love using ingredients grown with care.



Fairmount Fruit Farm in Franklin, MA, has been providing the community with the freshest quality goods since 1920. As a family owned and operated farm, we look forward to continuing this tradition with you and your families for many years to come.



## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

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

# 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>

## Church Office Reminders

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. **This month it is May 21st**

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



## Food Cupboard Donations Needed

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.)

Juice-Large and boxes

Kid Friendly Cereal

Cookies/Crackers

PB

Jam/Jelly

Canned Fruit

Spaghetti

Thanks to the community's generosity, we are currently fully stocked on soup.



## EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

On May 26th, Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse will be featuring storyteller Andrea Kamens.



She tells traditional, original, and first-person stories that tremble with truth. With skillful structuring and improvisational verve, she opens dialogue between her listeners and the story. She lives in Boston, MA, where she's on the board of The Story Space, New England's longest running weekly venue. She's a teacher, writer, community volunteer, and mom of five who haunts local beaches in all seasons and spends summer seeking the perfect strawberry.

The Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse is held the last Saturday of every month at 7pm in the vestry.

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 are served.

Medfield TV films event and posts to YouTube.

\$5 suggested donation (\$3 students).



# **Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse Help Needed**

**After two successful years, help is needed to keep this running.**

**Can you help with any of the following tasks?**

## **MONTHLY TASKS**

1. Continue to find features (Thea and Shirley will do.)
2. Gain feature's contact information
3. Ask feature performer for bio, high-res picture and theme a month before feature
4. Create half-sheet marketing flyer for Medfield Cultural Alliance
5. Send out half-sheet marketing flyer to Medfield Cultural Alliance
6. Send bio, standard coffeehouse blurb, and photo to Sandra for FPUU newsletter
7. Send bio, standard coffeehouse blurb, and photo to Margaret for FPUU website
8. Post announcement on storytelling and poetry list serves
9. Create event on Facebook
10. Write press release (Thea will do)
11. Send out press release and photo to Medfield Hometown Weekly
12. Send out press release and photo to Boston Globe
13. Create Mail Chimp campaign
14. Schedule 4 bulk emails on Mail Chimp
15. Put announcement on Patches (Medfield, Dover-Sherborn, Westwood, Wellesley, Needham, Newton)
16. Check in with feature (send dinner ideas, parking, directions, etc.)
17. Track results and collect data (#attendees, etc.)
18. Update Mail Chimp mailing list with new email addresses

## **DAY OF COFFEEHOUSE TASKS**

- A. Pick up camera at Medfield TV
- B. Buy refreshments
- C. Set up chairs and tables, centerpieces, tablecloths, outdoor signs
- D. Set up food/beverage table/ticketing table
- E. Set up sound system with mic and speakers
- F. Clean up afterwards

## **STAFF NEEDED FOR COFFEEHOUSE EVENING**

1. Ticket person at door
2. Kitchen monitor refilling pastries, etc.
3. Sound person to monitor mics, etc. (can be taught)
4. Camera person
5. Host (Thea and Shirley will do)

**Please contact Shirley Riga or Thea Iberall if you can help.**

## FPUU Calendar of Events for May

Tuesday, May 1	Membership Meeting/7:30 pm/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, May 6	CoA trip to Dogtown
Monday, May 7	Hessco-LGBT aging Project/5:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, May 8	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, May 9	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Offsite
Sunday, May 13	Mother's Day
Monday, May 14	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, May 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, May 19	NewLife Home Refurnishings/Volunteer Day Medfield Garden Club Spring Sale/9:00 am/Vestry CoA Rehearsal/Dinner/4:00 pm
Sunday, May 20	Annual Meeting/11:45 am/Sanctuary Newsletter Deadline
Monday, May 21	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, May 22	Membership Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, May 26	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day – Office Closed The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, May 30	Men's Group/7:30 pm/U-House
Thursday, May 31	RE Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/Vestry