

*First Parish Unitarian
Universalist of
Medfield*

**26 North Street, Medfield,
MA**

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“LOVE WILL GUIDE US

February Newsletter 2019

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

The snow is swirling and I hear the sleet scratching on the storm windows. Maybe I should go out and clear this mess – except it is far from over. Tonight whatever I don't clear, or falls afterward, will all freeze rock-hard.

This could be a classic New England metaphor for things going from bad to worse. On the other hand, I am not out on I-95. I sincerely hope you are not, either. And we get to watch the Patriots play for the Super Bowl. Both these remind us that human initiative can ameliorate bad

things and certainly helps very good things happen. Now that it actually feels like winter, we can properly grumble about the cold and snow, but we also get our proper moment to appreciate the deepness of the season. We are embraced in it.

My lesson from my first winter in Madison, Wisconsin – after growing up in suburban Philadelphia – was to let go of pretending that winter was not going to happen. That was and is easy in a coastal climate. Not so downwind of the Great Plains.

You have to get ready for it and you have to live through it. "Living through it" is not entirely a metaphor. One January a woman on the way to work fell before dawn on the sidewalk two blocks from my apartment and died of exposure before anyone found her.

Mostly we are fortunate to be spared such catastrophe in our lives. Still, there is a lot to be said for snow tires, gloves, hats and scarves, and making sure the furnace is functioning properly. And then there is the "mind of winter," as already mentioned in our Janus Service. It is good to have

a bit of attitude about it – bring it on, Frosty! And it is good to let it speak to us in only the ways cold and quiet and things larger than human activity can do.

Remember your church community is warm and welcoming, or at least willing to shiver a bit in company. We are busy in many ways. Some are for now, some are for the near future and some for later on. Spring beckons!

Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – February 3

"Outside Epiphany"

Rev. David W. Chandler

Saul was famously knocked off the donkey, but most UUs think in terms of Walden Woods or the Grand Canyon. Still, "direct experience" surprisingly remains our access point for "transcending mystery and wonder." How does that work? **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – February 10

Poetry Sunday

Worship and Music Committee

If you have a poem, short or long, bring it on for our Special Service Poetry Sunday. Contact Louise Rachin lrachin@comcast.net. It can be your own or one you like. You can read it yourself or hand it off to our skilled declamation specialists. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – February 17

"The Faraway Nearby"

Rev. David W. Chandler

Rebecca Solnit says her 2013 essay collection is about story – but it mostly reminds us how difficult stories can be when they involve people close to us. Who doesn't know that story? What is it about families and their discontents, so entangling? **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – February 24

"Future Discounted"

Rev. David W. Chandler

How much is the future worth, really? Is that value everything, or nothing, or a number somewhere in between? In a time of global climate change, the answer to this question is the most important one. What do we owe the world that comes after? **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Notes from your Executive Board

Your Executive Board (EB) held its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 21st. The following are some of the topics that the Board would like to share with you:



Our financial status is on track. A pick up in pledge contributions during December brought us back in line with our expected cash flow for the church year. Our expenditures are currently in line with our planned budget, except that we are likely to incur more expenses than planned for our ministerial search effort.

Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) representatives, co-chair, Karen Wians, and Committee member, Chris Flaherty, attended the EB meeting to give us an update. The good news is that we have a number of good qualified applicants who have expressed sincere interest. We are in a good place and have every reason to be optimistic. We are hoping that candidating will take place in May and a Vote to Call Meeting will take place after the second Sunday service. We encourage you to think about the ministry you want and how we will do it together. Your MSC is working very hard and spending an amazing amount of time doing the proper diligence on our behalf. We owe them a great deal of gratitude and appreciation.

Building and Grounds is continuing to make strides toward establishing a committee that is fully effective. The current focus is on making sure we are ready and prepared for winter. The thermostats have been properly programmed and set, we have antifreeze in the vestry heating system and our snow plow service is ready and standing by. David Russell, our EB liaison to B&G and the chair of B&G is looking for some help to

salt the walkways when necessary. If you are willing and able to help, please see David.

The Green Sanctuary Committee is moving into its next phases, implementing a green environment and increasing awareness both within the congregation and within the community. Fritz Fleischman is starting a Green Book Club that will initially be open to First Parish members, but will be open to the larger community once it gets going. See Fritz to find out more.

The EB reviewed the long term viability of the Farmers Market, which we have been running for a number of years during the summer months. Financially it has been a struggle to turn a profit, with the bake sale being the primary income source. Because it has been such a labor intensive effort and relies on a constant supply of volunteers, it is becoming harder on the members managing and supporting the Market. Also most of the vendors are not making any money. Susan Stromgren has been managing the Market for the last few years, doing a terrific job, but has been looking for someone to share the load to no avail. Although the Farmers Market has been a good way to bring the surrounding community closer, we have some difficult decisions to make about its future.

We are making some progress on finding a permanent home and support for our recently acquired desk and bible. Rich met with Christine McCue, a Medfield resident, writer and supporter of the acquisition to discuss plans to publicize the acquisition and their importance to the town. Rich also met with Pete Peterson, a town Selectman, to talk about the Town's long term support of the desk and bible and, more importantly, Medfield's

Historic Meeting House. We have been invited to meet with the Selectmen at one of their meetings to discuss how we might work together.

Bill Wians is leading an effort, initiated by the EB, to reach out to the Medfield Police and other local authorities in an effort to help us develop a safety plan for the congregation. The Religious Education Committee will also be discussing the subject of safety at their next meeting.

The EB has been working on its goals for the church year and finalized four primary goals: a) Find a new settled minister, b) Develop an initiative to identify external sources of funding that will support the long term maintenance of Medfield's Historic Meeting House, c) Revitalize

our Building and Grounds Committee and d) Increase visibility and outreach within Medfield and the surrounding Communities. We are well on our way to achieving our goals.

We have set a tentative date for our Annual Meeting: Sunday, May 19th, pending the Candidating Week dates.

There is a lot going on. Your Executive Board and all our Committees are working very hard to make our congregation a safe, supportive and enjoyable place to come together. Feel free to reach out to any member of the Executive Board if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

Rich Mastronardi, Executive Board Chair

Poetry Sunday February 10th



ROSES ARE RED

VIOLETS ARE BLUE

SHARE A FAVORITE POEM,

READING, SONG OR HAIKU

POETRY SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10th

Read, recite, sing or listen...

Please join us for this intergenerational service.

Contact Louise Rachin at lrachin@comcast.net by Monday February 4th if you would like your selection listed in the order of service.

Green Sanctuary Committee News



Our next meeting is **THURSDAY February 7** in the vestry

6 pm -- potluck supper
7-9 pm – business
ALL ARE WELCOME!
All are welcome!



Our mission is to raise consciousness about the environment, motivate for change, generate commitment to community action, and promote environmental justice, recognizing that all injustices are connected.

If our mission statement strikes a chord, floats your boat, sings to your heart, or in any way interests you, please come to our meeting. We strive to put into action what it means to be a UUA accredited Green Sanctuary. Join us!

Wes Stephenson is the author of the book What We're Fighting for Now is Each Other: Dispatches for the Front Lines of Climate Justice. Referring to the movement for climate justice in this country, he describes it as "A movement that's less about environmentalism and more like the human-rights and social-justice struggles of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A movement for human solidarity."

Our Green Sanctuary Committee embraces this perspective. Our Green Sanctuary Committee has become a social justice committee in spirit and action, if not in name (yet).



Learn about the new Green Book Club and the above book in this newsletter.

Questions? Contact Jeanette Ruyle jruyle23@verizon.net. We welcome input and interest! Come to a meeting!

RESERVE A DATE!!! POTLUCK SMALL SUPPERS



The Pleasure of your Company is Requested for a Potluck Small Supper
Hosted in the Homes of First Parish Members
The Evening of Saturday February 9th or Saturday February 16th.

To make a reservation for the evening of your choice, contact the Annual Fund Drive Co-Chair
Mary Corthell at 617-429-4199 or mecor4@gmail.com

Kindly RSVP by Sunday February 3rd.

"LOVE WILL GUIDE US" Annual Fund Drive 2019-2020

Adult Faith Development monthly groups-- “Chalice Circles for Spirituality and...”

We feel spiritual when we feel a deep connection with something greater than ourselves- with the natural world, with those who have gone before, with a creative spirit, with God. ~uua.org

**“Spirituality and Worship” is the topic for this month.
Sunday February 10 in the U House
11:45 am -1:15 pm.**

Future topics are Spirituality and Practice, Spirituality and Faith, and, Spirituality and Living in Our World.

The gatherings are open to any adult. Although there is an intended progression, each session is a stand-alone opportunity. Intention to attend is appreciated but not required.

Sessions are 1.5 hours long and structured with a welcome, chalice lighting, covenant review, check-in, readings, sharing and deep listening, and a closing.

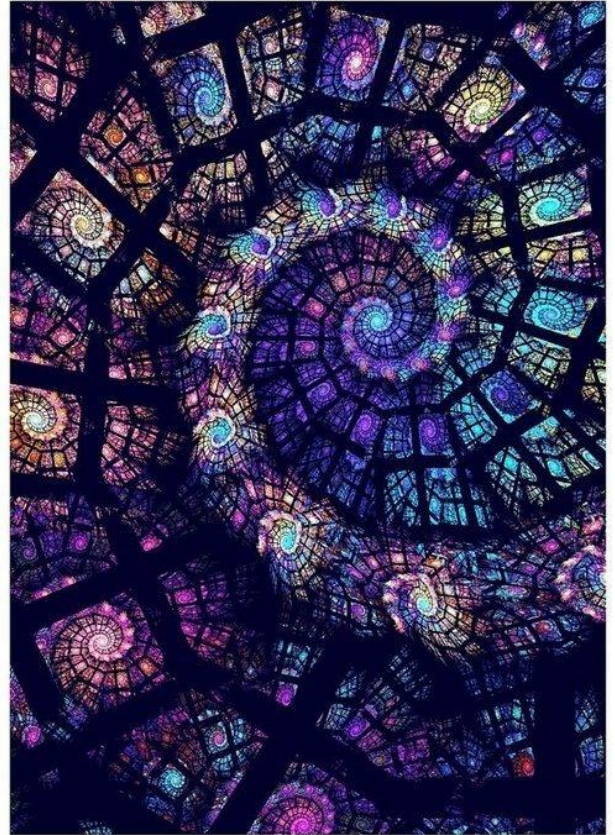
The group covenant:

- confidentiality
- respect our time together, beginning and ending on time
- keep discussion focused on topic
- invitation but not expectation to share
- speak from your own experience
- assume good intentions

These Chalice Circles are a type of Small Group Ministry and similar to Covenant Groups with a few differences.

Please direct any questions you have to Jeanette Ruyle who will be the facilitator for the five gatherings.

Jruyle23@verizon.net



PLEASE JOIN US for the all-new Green Book Club at First Parish!

We of the Green Sanctuary Committee are happy to let you know about a new reading group at First Parish: the Green Book Club. You are all invited to join us!

Our first meeting will be in the Vestry on Tuesday, February 19, at 7 p.m.

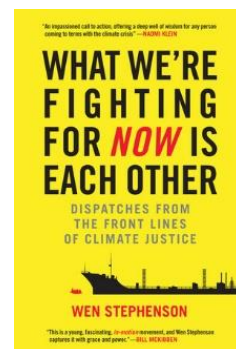
While we plan to educate ourselves on a variety of environmental topics, including (but not limited to) the facts and consequences of climate change, we do not intend to indulge in political partisanship, nor to wallow in doom and gloom. Rather, our model shall be the Henry David Thoreau of *Walden*, where he says, "I do not propose to write an ode to dejection, but to ... wake my neighbors up." No dejection, then, but practical information, mutual encouragement, good company, as we try to imagine what lies ahead for ourselves and our children.

Leading our book club will be Fritz Fleischmann, a professor at Babson College, where he has been teaching courses on nature and the environment for a number of years.

Our first book will be: Wen Stephenson, *What We're Fighting for Now Is Each Other: Dispatches from the Front lines of Climate Justice* (Beacon Press, 2016). Multiple copies of the book are available in the Minuteman Library Network.

Please join us!

Jeanette Ruyle, chair and Fritz Fleischmann, reading group leader



Notes from the Church Office:



Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. – **February 17th**

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

On February 23rd, Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse welcomes Rev. Cindy Maybeck whose theme is "Calling for Stories".

Rev. Cindy Maybeck, the storytelling minister, has over 25 years of experience telling stories in the pulpit. In 2013, she launched Spirit Story, a



ministry to bring her original story presentations into the church and the community to provide inspiration, healing and hope. She has ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Churches. She received master certification in the Academy for Biblical Storytelling www.nbsint.org and is a member of the Healing Story Alliance www.storynet.org and Northeast Storytelling www.nestorytelling.org

She lives in Worcester with her wife Elaine Fadden and travels throughout New England: preaching,

leading retreats, teaching workshops, telling stories, and providing spiritual coaching to individuals looking for a deeper, more meaningful connection with God.

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 6 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. \$10 suggested donation (\$5 open mic participants; \$3 students)



This evening we will be celebrating our 3rd birthday, so join us for fun and games and birthday cake.

Intergenerational Night of Food, Fun & Fellowship! March 9th



To sign up – please click the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10coe4aafad2daof58-love>

First Parish 10 foot Screen Instructions

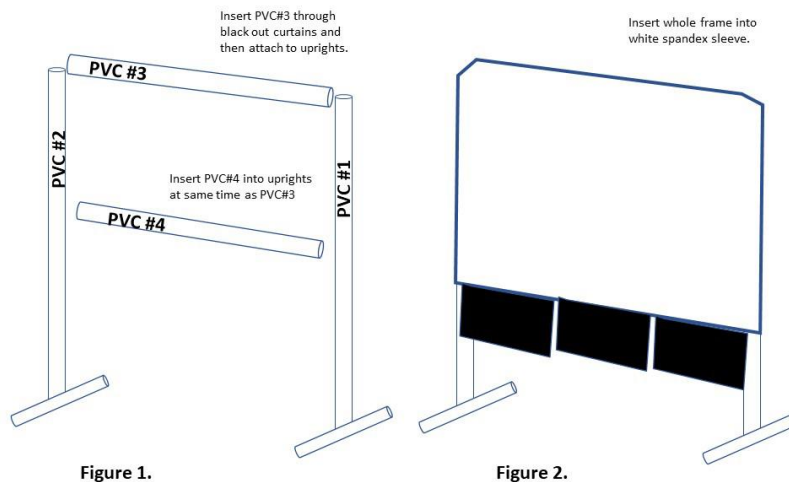
First parish has a 10 foot screen for presentations that can easily be set up in either the vestry or the sanctuary. It can be set up on the altar or in front of the altar for presentations in the sanctuary. It works quite well and I'd like to explain how to set it up.

WHAT IT IS: It consists of 4 PVC pipes and a clear bag that contains 3 black out curtains and one large white spandex cloth sleeve.

WHERE IT IS STORED: the pipes are in the electrical closet. The clear bag is in the closet at the back of the vestry.

TO SET THE SCREEN UP. Set it up near where you will use it. It is 8 ft. high and 10 ft. wide.

1. Place PVC#1 and PVC#2 on the floor in parallel. These are the upright poles with feet.
2. Place PVC#3 (top) and PVC#4 (middle) on the floor between PVC#1 and PVC#2. These are the cross struts.
3. Unzip the clear bag and thread PVC#3 (top) through the three black out curtains.
4. Insert PVC#3 and PVC#4 into PVC#1 and PVC#2. Lightly use the hammer (in the kitchen drawer) to bang them in. See Figure 1.
5. Fit the white cloth sleeve over the frame and bring it down over the black out curtains and struts. See Figure 2.
6. Lift up screen and set in place.



TO TAKE THE SCREEN DOWN:

1. Lay the screen down.
2. Remove the white sleeve and fold it up and return it to the clear bag.
3. Lightly bang the struts and detach them from the uprights.
4. Remove the blackout curtains and fold them up and return them to the clear bag.
5. Place the pipes back in the electrical closet.
6. Zip up the clear bag and return it to the closet at the back of the vestry.

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-](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/firstparisuuch01)

[home/firstparisuuch01](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:

Beef Stew
Canned Fruit
Peanut Butter
Jelly

Individual Snack Packages (granola bars, fruit bars, cheese/crackers, etc)
Cookies/Crackers
Raisins - Snack size, individually packed 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.

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FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, February 4	The Meetinghouse Lunch Club/11:00 am/Vestry Medfield Historical Society/7:30 pm/Vestry The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/U-House
Thursday, February 7	GSC Meeting & Potluck/6:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, February 9	Small Suppers
Sunday, February 10	Adult Faith Development/11:45 am/U-House
Monday, February 11	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, February 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Saturday, February 16	New Life Furniture Bank Volunteer Day/Walpole Small Suppers
Sunday, February 17	Newsletter Deadline
Monday, February 18	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 19	Green Book Club/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, February 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, February 23	Expresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry
Monday, February 25	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, February 28	RE Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/Vestry

