

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

**26 North Street, Medfield,
MA**

(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org

March Newsletter 2019

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

March is the in-between month. Usually, this as a matter of the seasons. It is the not-quite spring month. Or maybe, quite suddenly, spring arrives.

In the search for a new settled minister for a UU church, March is a similarly in-between month. The "pre-candidating" part of the process will finish. The Search Committee and each of the potential ministers they have talked to will make important decisions. However, the outcome of those decisions is not likely to be announced. There's paperwork, you see. The report from your Ministerial Search Committee elsewhere in this newsletter explains their work during this phase.

The paperwork is important. Before a candidate can be announced, the Search

Committee, Executive Board and the candidate must agree to a binding contract for ministry. This is an employment agreement but also a map of the relationship between the minister and congregation. Nobody wants to announce and then have a contract snag, and this negotiation can't be done in haste. Background checks must also be completed, and they are thorough. That takes time also.

Before the announcement, the candidate and the Search Committee must prepare the various materials – biography, samples of sermons and services, and a personal letter – that will introduce you to the person they are recommending for your pulpit. They must also agree on the basic activities for Candidating Week. This "week" will start with a Sunday service

designed and led by your candidate. During the week that follows, that candidate will be here to meet you, talk to you, and – this is important – try on the mantle of ministry in your community. The candidate will then lead a second Sunday worship and vanish from the premises while your Congregational Meeting to Call is convened immediately after the service. Every member of FPUU will get a vote by secret ballot on the Call of this candidate – it is a yes or no decision.

No minister can be called to a settled ministry in your congregation except by your vote according to the Bylaws.

It is most important during this in-between time to have confidence your Search Committee will make the right decision on a candidate. Be expectant, but be patient.

– Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday, March 3 **“Why I __ First Parish”** Worship and Music Committee
Our special guest speakers will fill in the blank. They might tell us why they are here, what they love, why it matters to them, or how they feel in this community. This service is a tradition. It always gives new perspective on those around us. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday, March 10 **“Attitude for Altitude”** Rev. David W. Chandler
ANNUAL FUND DRIVE SUNDAY will kick off our campaign to support First Parish over the coming fiscal year. “Love Will Guide Us” is this year’s theme. Rev. David shares thoughts on aiming in the right direction for the best future. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday, March 17 **“A Darker Mask”** Rev. David W. Chandler
Why is the face we show to others so often not the one they prefer? Why is it so often not the one we prefer? Why do we mask up? There are reasons why who we are, in public and even in private, might not be the real who we are at all. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday, March 24 **“It’s a Spring Thing!”** Religious Exploration Class
The vernal equinox is March 20, which makes it quite official. No guarantees on the weather, but our RE kids are ready to amaze you for the second year in a row. They invite you to share this Special Service. Join us to celebrate the possibilities. **All Ages.**

Sunday, March 31 **“Standing on the Rock”** Rev. David W. Chandler
We crouch in these times rich in crisis. “Standing” may hardly seem an option. Moving ahead may look to be only sorrowful delusion. We know Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood in a similar time of fear and fate and knew it was a crisis of the spirit. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**



*** Don’t forget to set your clocks forward on Sunday, March 10th!**

2019-2020 Annual Fund Drive

“LOVE WILL GUIDE US”

Dear Members and Friends:

“Love Will Guide Us” is the theme of our Annual Fund Drive. It is the title of one of our most popular hymns and the theme of this year’s RE curriculum. We believe that “hope inside us will lead the way”: away from pessimism and fear, to a place of mutual care and confident living.

Love and hope have guided us over the past three years, as our congregation entered a path of stabilization, of renewed trust, of good feelings, and even of incipient growth. We have cared for each other and embraced the hopeful mission of our congregation. Rev. David Chandler has reminded us that we do many things well, that we are clear-sighted about those areas in which we need to improve, and that we have every reason to look to the future with confidence.

Our coming together for a common purpose, our committed care for a spiritual and physical space of memory and meaning, love and hope, is also manifested in our annual giving. Our pledges make First Parish possible; the gifts we pledge are gifts to each other and to ourselves. They also secure the legacy we seek: just as our predecessors kept First Parish alive for us, we will leave a living and flourishing inheritance for coming generations.

This year, we look forward to the arrival of our next settled minister. It is a time to create the conditions for this new ministry to succeed. It is also a time to recognize and honor the accomplishments of the past three years, and to celebrate Rev. David’s ministry.

Please join with us in an intergenerational celebration on Saturday, March 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the Vestry. We will have a light supper followed by dancing to DJ Shelley’s inspired tunes. She will get us all moving! (Suggested contributions to help cover expenses will be \$10 per adult or \$20 per family. There will be a cash bar.)

And please plan to join us for worship on Annual Fund Drive Sunday the next day, March 10. We will begin the formal pledging process at that time. Your participation is vital.

Our traditional Commitment Sunday Service will be April 7, when we will submit our pledge cards and come forward in community to demonstrate and renew our shared commitment to First Parish, to each other, and to the principles that both bind and inspire us.

You are invited, as always, to talk to us about any aspect of the Annual Fund Drive. We will be providing more information and your Annual Fund Drive Leader will be able to answer questions. The Executive Board will also keep you up to date on the development of the proposed budget for 2019-2020.

We thank you for supporting your spiritual family.

Your Annual Fund Drive Committee (Mary Corthell and Marshall Sugarman, co-chairs; Chris Flaherty, Fritz Fleischmann, Duncan Glover, and Louise Rachin)

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



To sign up – please click the link below:

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

Ministerial Search Committee Update



The Ministerial Search Committee continues its work towards our mutual goal of finding a settled minister for FPUU Medfield. Congregations and ministers in search are engaging in interviews throughout February and mid-March. The interview process for each pre-candidate includes a weekend of serious conversations, shared meals, touring of FPUU's Church and U-House, and a Sunday Service at a "neutral pulpit" i.e. a UU Church in the region where the ministerial candidate serves in the role of minister for the full service.

Following these interviews, the MSC will determine if we have a ministerial candidate whom we would like to bring forward to the congregation as a selected candidate. The UUA has very thorough guidelines for this discernment process.

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

shirley_riga@yahoo.com
wianskbad@verizon.net



A Note from the Building & Grounds Committee



Your Buildings and Grounds Committee has been active since this last fall. We have already had the stucco on either end of the front staircase repaired, and we plan to have the steps painted in the spring. Also complete is trimming tree branches and removing some whole trees from around the U-House. The branches threatened the roof in some cases, and have also been known to whack our dear Rev. Dave on the noggin, so we are glad to see them go.

A large "thank you" to Stumpy's Tree Service, who gave us a deep discount and did the job promptly.

Soon to come: gutters above the U-House porch and the vestry entrance.

David Russell

Green Sanctuary Committee News



Our next meeting is **THURSDAY March 7** in the vestry
6 pm -- potluck supper
7-9 pm – business
ALL ARE WELCOME!
All are welcome!



Climate Change Preparedness

On the last day of January, after FPUU's on-time February newsletter went out, three members of our Green Sanctuary Committee attended an important gathering in Medfield addressing potential impacts of climate change on our



community. The town and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council hosted a Climate Community Resilience Building Workshop, which was well-attended by a mix of residents, town staff, and concerned people from other communities and organizations (First Parish UU was the only house of worship represented). Numerous town vulnerabilities as well as strengths were identified, followed by idea generation for actions and priorities regarding climate change impacts. Reported on by both local newspapers, [here is a link](#) to the article in Hometown Weekly with more photos. Talk with Jeanette, Eve, or Thea who attended.

Did You Know?

The Yale Program on Climate Change Communication has an [interesting map](#) about opinions in our country about climate change. Indeed, their whole website is interesting. Check it out!

Our mission is to raise consciousness about the environment, motivate for [individual and systemic] 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!

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

The Green Sanctuary Committee of FPUU encourages all Medfield residents to attend Town Meeting on Monday April 29 and vote *in favor* of a “plastic checkout bag prohibition.” Protect our environment and public health!

STAY CALM, KEEP FOCUSED & BELIEVE IN YOUR ABILITIES

LEARN EASY & EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES IN A FRIENDLY & RELAXED ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL...

- Enable you to conquer fear and self-doubt
- Help you to overcome your limiting beliefs
- Empower you to cope with challenges
- Help you to make decisions that will improve your life



NEXT WORKSHOP:

DATE: Saturday, March 9

TIME: 9 am - 5 pm

VENUE: Holiday Inn

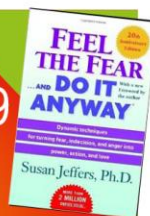
55 Ariadne Rd, Dedham, MA 02026

TICKET PRICE: \$150*

TICKETS, INFO & TESTIMONIALS:

www.conqueringyourfears.com

Ask about early-bird specials



*TICKET INCLUDES:

- Full-day workshop
- Personal copy of *Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway*
- Personal *Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway* Training Manual
- Refreshments

Easy access from Boston

Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway® is a registered trade mark of Susan Jeffers Ph.D and is being used with her express permission.

The course is licenced and based on the teaching of Susan Jeffers Ph.D. as contained in her international bestseller, *Feel the Fear and Do it anyway.*®

susanJeffers

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 Practice”
Sunday March 10 in the U House
11:45 am -1:15 pm

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. Please come!

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.

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

Please direct any questions you have to [Jeanette Ruyle](#) who will be the facilitator for the five gathering.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

Facebook@ <https://www.facebook.com/FirstParishMedfield/>
Instagram @ firstparishmedfield



HUUG Boxes for our Young Adults



Some years ago, we used to get together care packages known as HUUG (Hearty UU Greetings) boxes to send to our young adults who were out of high school and had moved onward (college, work, military, community service, whatever), as a way of letting them know that we as a congregation love them, wish them well, and welcome them at any time. The boxes contained notes, poems, jokes, simple items to use or to eat, including something from our younger children. Let's bring this practice back!

This particular year, since we have not done this in a while, a number of young adults who have now been out of college for a few years will receive boxes, so we can do "catch up" and include them for at least this one time.

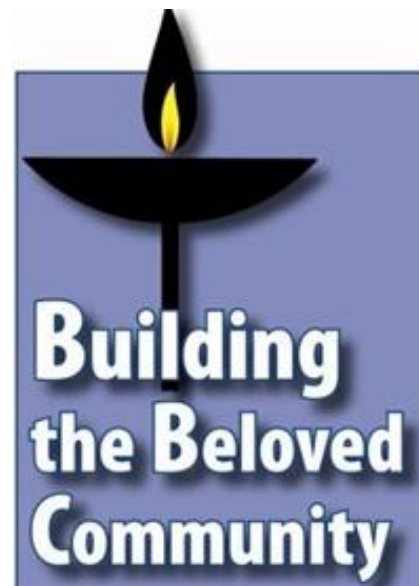


So far, we know there are nine recipients. **A box for each young adult will be set out on a table in the Vestry during coffee hour on the last two Sundays of March—the 24th and the 31st.** Congregants of any age are invited to place *small* "treats" and friendly notes in the boxes. There will be a basket for monetary donations for the cost of postage. The HUUG boxes will be mailed out during the first days of April.

Here are some items to consider-- one item is fine, and/or simply write a message...

- Chapstick
- Hand lotion
- Cough drops
- Tea bags
- Toothpaste, floss
- Tissues (small packet)
- Microwave popcorn
- A copy of a favorite poem, quotation, joke, or cartoon
- Or any **little** item you can think of!

For questions, contact [Jeanette Ruyle](#)



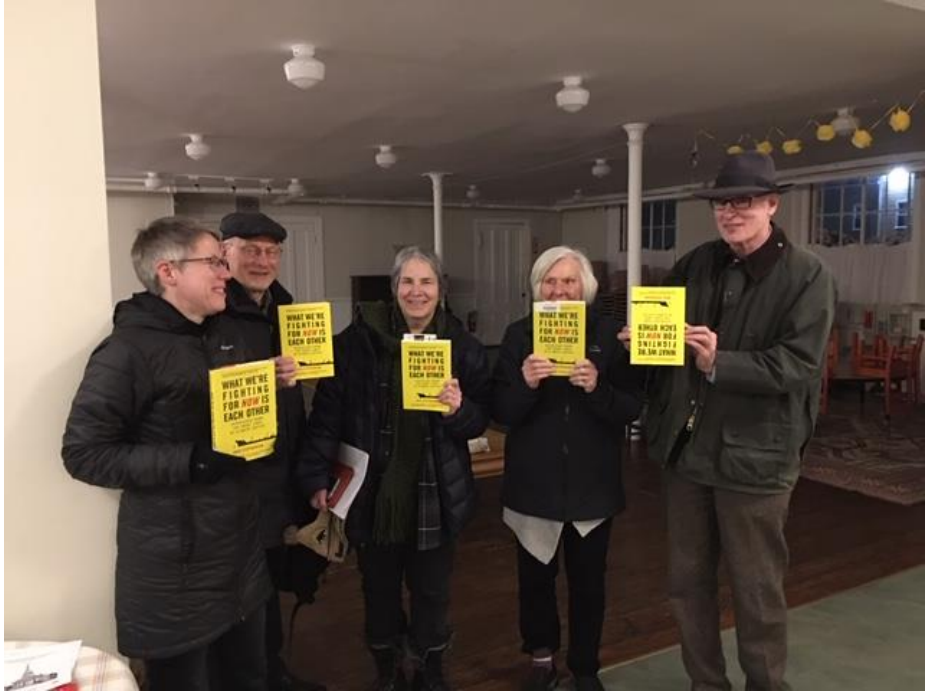
Green Book Club at First Parish

The Green Book Club Has Begun

We had our first book gathering Tuesday evening, Feb. 19. Thank you to Fritz for adeptly facilitating a thought-provoking discussion about Wen Stephenson's *What We're Fighting for Now is Each Other: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Climate Justice*.

Photo, by Jeanette, shows five of the eight folks who attended, just as we are about to depart—smiles despite the gravity of the topic.

"We know that crimes perpetrated against the planet today are a form of violence against our fellow human beings, a profound racial and economic and generational injustice, on a global scale... we have to come together across our cultural, racial, economic, and generational divides, even our ideologic divides." *Wen Stephenson*



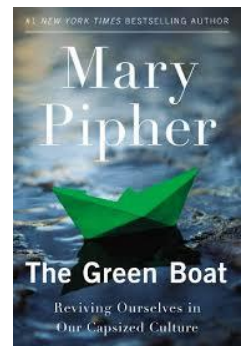
The Green Book Club at First Parish

We of the Green Sanctuary Committee hope you will join us!

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, March 26, at 7 p.m.** in the U-House.

Our book will be: *The Green Boat: Reviving Ourselves in Our Capsized Culture* by Mary Pipher (Riverhead Books, 2013).

FPUU now owns one copy which is available for loan to the first person who signs it out; in the Vestry. Multiple copies of the book are available through the Minuteman Library Network.



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.

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.

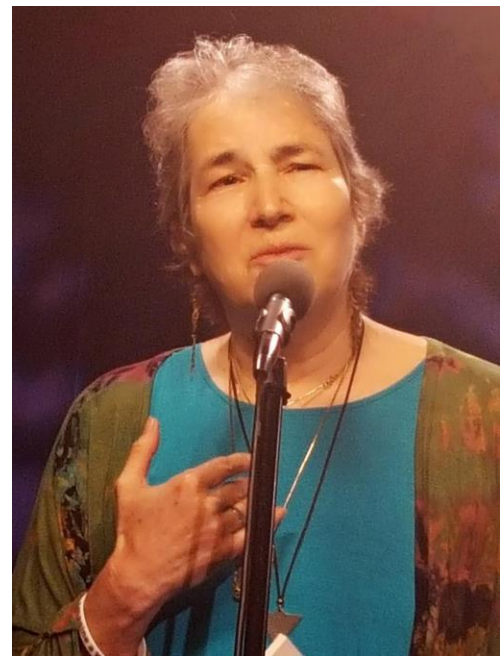
Fritz Fleischmann, reading group leader, and Jeanette Ruyle, chair of GSC



EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

On March 30th,
Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse welcomes Thea Iberall
whose theme is "Facing Fears".

Thea Iberall is a storyteller, performance poet, and playwright. She represented Los Angeles at the National Poetry Slams and is featured in the documentary GV6 THE ODYSSEY: Poets, Passion & Poetry. Her musical We Did It For You! Women's Journey Through History has been performed over 50 times in Massachusetts and California. Her one-woman show, "The Only Thing Greek About Me is My Name," has been performed at the Santa Monica Playhouse and other theatres. Her novel, The Swallow and the Nightingale, has been hailed as the next Celestine Prophecy. An inductee into the International Educators Hall of Fame, Thea has a Master's Degree in Writing (USC) and a Ph.D. in Computational Neuroscience (UMass). She is a member of Northeast Storytelling.



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)

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:

Kid Friendly Cereal
Instant Oatmeal - packages with individual packets
Beef Stew
Chili

Juice-Boxes and Large
Salty/Sweet Snacks
Boxes of Individual Snacks (e.g. granola bars, cereal bars, cheese/PB and crackers)

Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

Notes from the Church Office:

Please remember the following deadlines:



Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. – **March 24th**

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

FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 3	Pledge Drive Training/12:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, March 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
Tuesday, March 5	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/U-House
Thursday, March 7	GSC Meeting & Potluck/6:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 9	Around the World Dance Party/6:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, March 10	Adult Faith Development/11:45 am/U-House
Monday, March 11	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, March 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 16	New Life Furniture Bank Volunteer Day/Walpole
Monday, March 18	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, March 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, March 24	Newsletter Deadline
Monday, March 25	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, March 26	Green Book Club/7:00 pm/U-House
Thursday, March 28	RE Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 30	Expresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry

