

*First Parish Unitarian
Universalist of
Medfield*

**26 North Street, Medfield,
MA**

(508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org



April Newsletter 2019

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

Time to put up the screens – metaphorically, of course. Spring is the turn-out-the-house season. When I was a kid it was window box time. My mother would go off to the Acme (“ak-a-mee,” as we say in Philadelphia) and load up the station wagon with the brightest flowers she could find. We’d all spend a long day cleaning the boxes, potting the plants and remounting them on the windows. It was too much work to please me.

On the other hand, the first house Sally and I owned had storm windows and screens that had to

be put up and taken down every year. They were wood. They were heavy. They required a considerable amount of cleaning every time, and a lot of wrangling to squeeze the inevitably warped frames into the wooden windowsills. They were painted an ancient and flaking green-black, which did not go with the current house color. No matter – we loved every minute of it. It was our house, you see.

So this, then, about the church – it’s your house, you see. Keeping it in good repair is something you mostly pay for. The skills and the

tools are professional grade and that's the best hope of getting the work done right the first time – or at least the second time. The expense is aggravating, but old houses are like that – and we know very well they don't make them that way anymore.

Keeping it loved is something you mostly do. Caring and attention matter more than high levels of skill. Tools generally come right out of the garage (or our basement). Almost anybody can do the work. This time of year we start thinking about

the grounds and gardens. Yes, we do have gardens! We have a lovely site, but it needs care – especially in the spring when the debris of winter needs removal. A modest stewardship pays off every time somebody goes by and sees an attractive and well-kept piece of the neighborhood. Remember the old paint color matters less than the pride you display.

Church Cleanup Day is on Sunday, April 14, immediately after the Earth Day Service. That's a very good time to get involved.

– Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – April 7 **Commitment Sunday** Rev. David W. Chandler
"Love Will Guide Us" is the Annual Fund Drive theme this year. Today we turn in our pledges (or virtual pledges, if yours is already in). "Falling Upward" will be the homily. The Membership Committee will also honor the "us." **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Sunday – April 14 **Earth Day for All Ages** Green Sanctuary Committee
Our Earth Day service is early because of Easter, but join us in celebration, inspiration and the challenges as we move forward as an official Green Sanctuary Congregation of the UUA. Church Clean-up Day after – all welcome!

Sunday – April 21 **Easter Sunday for All Ages** Rev. David W. Chandler
We will begin the service with a Hat Parade for everyone. Plan to don your best chapeau and promenade! We will have a special "egg-sighting" Time for All Ages, spring Choir music, special reading and a homily called "Made for Goodness." **Then kids go out for the Easter egg hunt.**

Sunday – April 28 **"Being Wrong Religiously"** Rev. David W. Chandler
How we move through the world matters. Being wrong is an inevitable part of the trip, and using a religious perspective can help us to stay whole inside. Taking in the scenery doesn't have to mean a sectarian or even theistic frame. **Religious Exploration offered for children.**

Ministerial Search Committee Update



Greetings once again from the FPUU Medfield Ministerial Search Committee! As we submit this update, we are approaching the time when ministers in search, and congregations in search, engage with each other in final decision-making. We will soon know whether we have a candidate to bring forward to the congregation. If so, we will be scheduling a "candidating week", which will include two Sunday Services led by the candidate, and a week-long slate of activities for congregants to get to know the candidate and vice-versa. As Rev. David explained in his March newsletter column, candidating week culminates in a vote by the congregation to call this minister to service at FPUU Medfield.

We are on the cusp of welcoming change in our congregation. We ask for your continued patience and trust in this process, and will stay in touch as the ministerial search season unfolds.

Shirley Riga and Karen Wians

Co-chairs, MSC

A Message from the Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Bylaws of First Parish UU of Medfield, and in advance of elections to be held at the Annual Meeting in May, the Nominating Committee would like to welcome nominations, including self-nominations, for the Executive Board of First Parish. There will be several positions to fill for the 2019-2020 church year. Additionally, if you are interested in serving on the Board in a subsequent year, we are happy to discuss potential future options to assist in longer-term planning.

We seek to encourage engagement at all levels of Church leadership; thus, if you are interested in serving on one of our many vibrant and important committees, please be in touch with the current chair directly. (See [*https://www.firstparishmedfield.org/parish-committees](https://www.firstparishmedfield.org/parish-committees) for a complete list.)

Serving on the Executive Board or on a congregational committee is not just a good way to support the mission and operations of First Parish; it is a wonderful opportunity to work closely with the remarkable people who make up this special community. We hope to hear from you.

Respectfully,

Jen Bartle [jenbartle@gmail.com]

Glen D'Abate [gdabate@gmail.com]



Notes from the Church Office:

Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. – April **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

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE FOR 2019-20

"HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?"

When we think how much our church means to us, we remember that First Parish people are entirely responsible for the church's expenses. First Parish cannot exist without the pledge of financial support from every Member and Friend.

The **UUA Fair Share Guide** suggests that we pledge at least 2% of our adjusted household income. (This is like the "adjusted gross income" used by the IRS.) More importantly, The Guide also asks us to reflect on how we relate to our congregational community:

- **Supporter:** The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my adjusted income.
- **Sustainer:** The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation. My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my adjusted income.
- **Visionary:** My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my adjusted income.
- **Transformer:** I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my adjusted income.

All of us have obligations like housing and food, insurance and taxes, and support for dependents. How much, after these, can we set aside for taking care of our spiritual community? Each of us has to make this decision, depending on our circumstances. Since First Parish is here for us each month of the year, consider the monthly amount you can give to support the church. You can pay your total annual pledge in these monthly amounts, which helps the church's cash flow and yours. (For many of us, it helps to make monthly payments, automatically mailed by our bank, like a car or mortgage payment.)

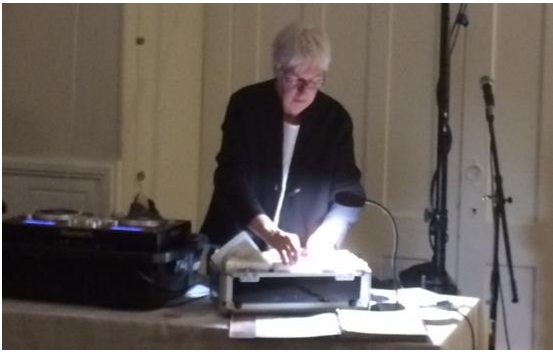
Last year (for the 2018-19 budget), we had 47 pledging households; the average pledge was \$2,165. We have been managing persistent operational deficits for some years. Let us make a concerted effort this year to escape that cycle and welcome our new settled minister with a balanced budget. We can do it!

Here is our sincere plea: if all of us pledge a minimum of 2% of our adjusted household income, the Executive Board will be able to craft a balanced Church Budget for 2019-20.

Thank you for being in our community.

Annual Fund Drive Committee: Mary Corthell and Marshall Sugarman (co-chairs), Chris Flaherty, Fritz Fleischmann

Kickoff Party for the "Love Will Guide Us" Annual Fund Drive, March 9 in the Vestry



Green Sanctuary Committee News



GREEN
SANCTUARY
CONGREGATION

Our next meeting is **THURSDAY April 4** in the vestry
6 pm -- potluck supper
7-9 pm – business
ALL ARE WELCOME!



We won a prize!

Way back in December 2018, Jeanette and Thea thought it would be a good idea for our Green Sanctuary Committee to enter a contest—the “Cool Congregations Challenge” put on by the **Interfaith Power and Light**, a nation-wide organization that mobilizes a religious response to global warming in congregations through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. With Thea doing all the writing, we entered FPUU into the Community Inspiration category (there were five categories) and featured the [Medfield anti-idling initiative](#) that was done in 2016-17. We thought it was a long shot to win, but why not try?

On March 5 we were notified that we won in the Community Inspiration category! The prize is a check for \$1000 for FPUU. Read about us on the [Interfaith Power & Light website](#) as well as the other winning congregations, one of which is another UU congregation in Iowa. They are all inspiring. The GSC and your Board of Directors will be discussing how this money will be used. And... let's all who drive automobiles of the gasoline-consuming kind practice what we preach. Please observe the [MA anti-idling law](#)!



Faith in Action opportunity



The annual **UU Mass Action Advocacy Day** is April 9. It begins at the Arlington Street Church in Boston (the historic UU church of Rev. Ellery Channing) and ends at the State House. Taking part in this event is now a long-standing tradition with a few members of FPUU. [Read about it](#) and consider going if you are able. It can be a transformational experience, and visiting your elected representatives is made easy.

Did you know? Approximately 30% of Unitarian Universalist congregations are fully accredited **Green Sanctuaries**. The [Green Sanctuary program](#) of the UUA has been going since 2002. There are 183 accredited and re-accredited congregations as of 2017, with 9 candidate congregations waiting to be announced. First Parish UU Medfield became an accredited Green Sanctuary in 2017.

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](#). We welcome input and interest! Come to a meeting!

Check out this Gorgeous Photo!



"Spring Moon. First Parish, Medfield, MA."

(Photo taken by Rev. David W. Chandler on the first day of spring - Wednesday, March 20th, 2019)

The Meeting House Lunch Club

for LGBT Seniors, Friends and Allies

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual & Transgender



**Please Join Us For:
A Light Lunch & Presentation by
Thea Iberall
“Out and Proud”**

Monday, April 8th, 2019

11am to 1pm

First Parish Unitarian Church

26 North Street

Medfield, MA

For further information or to register
call HESSCO Nutrition Department at 781-784-4944
Or email Louise Rachin at lrachin@comcast.net

To ensure a meal please RSVP by April 4th
Support for this event provided in part by the
Metro West Health Foundation

Suggested meal donation \$3.00 for seniors over 60, \$5 charge for anyone under 60

Suggested meal donation: \$3.00 for seniors over 60, \$5 charge for anyone under 60

HESSCO
Care. Support. Solutions.



**LGBT AGING
PROJECT**



Church Cleanup Day is on Sunday, April 14, immediately after the Earth Day Service.



Adult Faith Development Monthly Chalice Circles

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 Faith”

**Sunday April 14 in the U House
11:45 am -1:15 pm**

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

A final Chalice Circle for this church year is intended to be held in May, date TBD.

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



Green Book Club



The Green Book Club is for everyone! In March we met for the second time and discussed Mary Pipher's book, *The Green Boat*. You are invited to the next gathering. Reading the book is optional—you can *hear about* the book. But of course, reading the book is encouraged.

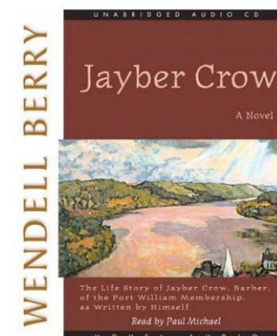
The Green Book Club at First Parish

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

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m.**, location TBD.

Our book will be: ***Jayber Crow***, a novel by Wendell Berry.

You are welcome to come whether you have read the book or not!



Annual Potluck Seder, April 26 – All Invited!



You're invited!

Annual FPUU Potluck Seder
Friday, April 26 at 6PM



The Passover Seder celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Our FPUU Seder celebrates the search for freedom for all, telling the story with a decidedly UU twist.

Please bring a dish to share. During Passover, no leavened food is eaten, so if possible avoid dishes such as pasta, pizza, bread, or pastries.

This is a family-friendly event and inclusive of all ages – we hope you can join us!

Please RSVP to becca_kornet@yahoo.com so we can get an accurate count for the event.

Dan Bibel
Faye Kalmbach

Becca Kornet
Louise Rachin





EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

On April 27th, Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse to feature singer/songwriters Crowes Pasture Duo

We have a very special treat for our April Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse. More than beautiful recordings, Crowes Pasture has an intimacy about their live performances. The romantic claw hammer banjo playing by Monique Byrne and expressive guitar picking by Andy Rogovin are enlivened by their personal chemistry and emotionally expressive vocals. Nick Noble, host of "The Folk Revival" on WICN-FM, has praised the duo for their "lovely harmonies and a passionate approach to musical performance". With a full tour schedule and new full-length album due out in 2019, Crowes Pasture is emerging from the sea grass dunes at the "edge of America" to bring listeners across the country together.

The Crowes Pastures Duo performs original music and eye-opening covers that reflect a mutual passion, sense of discovery and celebration of life. Their tightly blended vocal harmonies are mixed with an expressive instrumental style that is best described as a banjo-guitar romance. They have two EPs, two full-length albums, and their new single, "Hazy Shade of Winter" (Paul Simon). They have featured at the Joe Val Bluegrass Festival Showcase Stage, Club Passim's Campfire Festival, and were finalists in the 2018CT Folk Festival Competition. Their music has achieved airplay on over 70 stations nationwide including Tufts

Freeform Radio in Boston and Sundilla Radio Hour. The theme for the evening is "Acts of Courage."



Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse is an opportunity for musicians, singers, and spoken word artists to share their poetry, stories, and songs. It is held the last Saturday of every month at 7pm. Open mic participants 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.

For more information, call 413-537-7582 or shirley_riga@yahoo.com

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!

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:

Instant Oatmeal - packages with individual packets
Beef Stew
Chili

Kid Friendly Cereal

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.

FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, April 1	Medfield Historical Society/7:30 pm/Vestry The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/U-House
Thursday, April 4	GSC Meeting & Potluck/6:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, April 8	The Meetinghouse Lunch Club/11:00 am/Vestry The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, April 14	Earth Day/Church Clean up Day Adult Faith Development/11:45 am/U-House
Monday, April 15	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 18	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, April 20	New Life Furniture Bank Volunteer Day/Walpole
Sunday, April 21	Easter Sunday Newsletter Deadline
Monday, April 22	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 23	Green Book Club/7:00 pm/U-House
Wednesday, April 24	Membership Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Offsite
Thursday, April 25	RE Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/Vestry
Friday, April 26	Annual Passover Seder/6:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, April 27	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry
Monday, April 29	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry

