



**First Parish
Unitarian Universalist
Of Medfield**
26 North Street, Medfield, MA
(508) 359-4594
www.firstparishmedfield.org



September 2019 Newsletter

Ministerial Musings Rev. Dave Egan



I am so pleased to join this wonderful community as your 39th settled minister. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you over the past weeks. I appreciate all of your words of welcome and look forward to a long and fruitful ministry together!

My former minister used to say around this time of year, "Well folks, summer's over... time to shear the sheep!" I'm not sure exactly what he meant by this. No, he wasn't a sheep farmer. Maybe, as the

minister, he saw himself a bit as the shepherd and us as his flock. Who knows?

But maybe what he was getting at, was that over those hot, lazy summer months, when we often go on vacation, when we maybe eat a few too many burgers, maybe eat too much ice cream, we tend to let it all hang out. We tend to get a little shaggy.

Now, while relaxation and a change of pace is a good thing, when the summer is over, eventually we need to come back to reality. Get back on track. Be responsible once again. Yes, it may be time to shear that sheep. Clean up our act. Get back into the routine of the fall.

Time to shear the sheep? Now, maybe I took that a little too literally. Not sure there is much left for

me to sheer off! But as my bald, Methodist grandfather used to say, "God made only so many perfect heads... the rest he covered in hair." So if any of you want to join me in discovering just how beautiful your head is, I have clippers in my office...if you are so inspired!

So here in September, it is time to get back into our normal routines, for everything has it's season. But more importantly, now that fall is here, we return to this beloved community, return to this wonderful sacred space. We return to the love of all of the folks who are with us this morning. For while having more freedom over the summer months can be a nice change of pace, if you are at

all like me, I miss church every Sunday. I miss the comfort that only being together can provide. I miss knowing that whatever is happening in our lives, we will be here for each other every week. No matter what.

So if you are ready to say goodbye to the lazy, wild, and carefree days of August, and hello to the loved ones who we have so dearly missed, let us vow together return to this community and sheer that sheep! I think it's time.

Many blessings,
Rev. Dave

Upcoming Services

Sunday, Sept 8 - InGathering: From Many Waters - Welcome back to church! On this the first regular service of the new church year and Rev. Egan's first service, all are invited to bring water from a place they have travelled this past summer. Whether your water is from the kitchen sink or the banks of the Ganges, come and share your experience with us. This is an intergenerational service where people of all ages are welcome to this fun and interactive service. Following the service, we will have coffee hour out on the green. Come join us!

September 15 - No One Even Cares - In preparation for the Global Climate Strike beginning on Friday September 20th, Rev. Egan will be sharing his thoughts on the climate crisis. Our children are rising up from around the globe to demand that we take this emergency seriously. As Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old climate crisis leader, recently said to the E.U. Climate Council, "I want you to act as if your house is on fire... because it is. I want you to panic." Join us for this Sunday service, and join us the following Friday for the Global Climate Strike on the Boston Common!

Sunday, Sept 22 - Unitarian Universalism: Not a Casual Covenant - As we take a closer look at Unitarian Universalism, Rev. Egan will delve into what it means to be a *covenantal* faith. Have you ever been asked, "What do UU's believe?" Come learn why that question is often so hard for us to answer, and why it is simply the wrong question. If you ever thought about inviting a friend to church, this service would be a good time to start! Join us. You belong here.

Sunday, Sept 29 - Guest Preacher, Rev. Mary-Margaret Earl - On this Sunday, Rev. Earl from the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Roxbury, will lead our worship service. She will explore the legacy of one of our UU church fathers, Rev. Joseph Tuckerman, who founded the UU Urban Ministry in Boston almost 200 years ago. The work of this important organization has been and continues to be to encourage long-term relationships between those with privilege and those without, to encourage growth and understanding. Come learn about another way to live our UU faith out in the world!

From the Executive Board



Welcome Reverend Egan!

Reverend David Egan began his role as our new settled minister on August 16th. We are looking forward to his spiritual guidance, enthusiasm and passion as we enter the next chapter in our Congregation's journey. I think it will be a great one.

He has already holding office hours and meeting with various church members and groups as we get ready to begin our new church year on Sunday, September 8th. I hope that you can be there to welcome him and to help launch our new year.

This coming year should be exciting, with lots of new ideas and energy to make our community stronger and filled with joy.

Please join me and your Executive Board in welcoming Reverend Egan!

Rich Mastronardi
Executive Board Chair



Blessing of the Backpacks



If you were not able to come to the multigenerational worship service "Blessing of the Backpacks (and all bags)" on August 25, we made extra keyrings. They relate to the [story](#) that was told during worship. Speak to Jeanette Ruyle if you would like a keyring with warm fuzzies. Remember:

- The Spirit of Life is with you at school, work, or wherever you are.
- This congregation cares about what happens to you at school, work, or wherever you are.
- If you ever need more love, you can ask us for more.



Medfield Day at FPUU, Saturday Sept. 14



We will have pumpkin decorating, steeple tours, Espresso Yourself coffeehouse table, and Green Sanctuary table and activity, and yes... henna tattoos! Rev. Dave is helping with this!

[Please sign up here](#) to be part of the fun times. If you can only do part of a time slot, sign up and let us know.

The latest idea (thank you Diane Maxson) is to set up the old farmers' market tent as a resting place, with water in a thermos, cups, chairs, and small tables. For everyone.

Thanks, from your co-coordinators!
Sarah Zitoli
sezitoli@gmail.com
Jeanette Ruyle
jruyle23@verizon.net



RE Committee Update

The RE Committee has been working hard this summer to prepare for another great year with our kids. We are thrilled that our amazing RE Coordinator Samantha Decker Nemeth is back to lead our program for a 5th year. This year we are offering two Religious Exploration classes- one for grades K-5 and one for our "tweens" in grades 6-7. We are excited to offer this additional class to better serve our age groups. We are going to need some help from the congregation in the way of volunteers in the classrooms. This is a great way to learn more about our RE programs and connect with our younger church members. Be on the lookout for a Signup genius in the coming weeks. Thank you in advance for helping support the First Parish RE Program and we look forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks!!



Religious Exploration classes start on
Sept 15th

Church Office Reminders

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. **This month it is September 15th**
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
Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

Greetings from the Worship and Music Committee (WMC)!

We are so excited to start the new church year with Rev Egan! We had our “pre-season” meeting in August and there was a lot of energy in the room as we mapped out the calendar and started our planning for the year. A special welcome to new WMC members **Patty Castle, Dewey Dewhirst, and Margaret Rolph!**

In addition to all the Sunday services led by Rev Egan, we are thrilled to be welcoming Rev Mary Margaret Earl, Executive Director and Senior Minister of the UU Urban Ministry, as our guest speaker September 29.

We are still ironing out the timing and other details for our regular WMC-sponsored services (e.g., Music Sunday, Poetry Sunday), and we will be working with the RE and Green Sanctuary committees to discuss their planned services.

If you have ideas for a Sunday service or just want to give some feedback, let us know.

Rev Dave Egan, Minister
Eva Kendrick, Music Director

Becca Kornet, Chair
Jen Bartle
Kay Bennett
Patty Castle

Dewey Dewhirst
Susan Harlow
Louise Rachin
Margaret Rolph

Susan Stromgren
Denise Sullivan
David Temple



Notes from the Director of Music



Hi everyone! I am so excited to begin the church year and to work with everyone, especially our newly called minister, Rev. Dave Egan. We have begun planning the services together along with the Worship &

Music Committee, and I am thrilled for the year ahead. I just had a couple of announcements I wanted to share with you.

CHOIR—If you are considering joining the choir this year, please send me an e-mail at music@firstparishmedfield.org. We do not sing every week, so the time commitment is fairly light. However, we do sing at special services including In-Gathering, Community Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Music Sunday, Easter and more. All are welcome!

MUSIC IN SERVICES—If you would like to add a musical element to a service such as singing or playing an instrument during offertory, please let me know. It's always wonderful having more congregation members involved in the service. Whether you have a specific idea of a piece you'd like to play or would just be interested in doing it sometime, please let me know. I am happy to accompany on the piano as well.

CONCERT SERIES—I am planning a musical concert series at FPUU this year! I have wanted to do this for a while but now have a little more time to do this. More details will follow!

LOWELL MASON HOLIDAY CONCERT—We are overjoyed to announce that this year we will be hosting the annual Lowell Mason Holiday Concert, formerly held at the First Baptist Church of Medfield. I believe this will be the fourth annual Lowell Mason Holiday Concert, and we are happy to be hosting this year, where Lowell Mason was Director of Music circa 1809! The concert will be Saturday, December 7, and it is a fundraiser for the Lowell Mason House, featuring performances from our very talented members of the community. The event sells out very quickly, so I will keep you posted as soon as tickets become available.

As always, I look forward to making music with you all very soon.

Best wishes,
Eva Conley Kendrick



Green Sanctuary Committee News



Our next meeting will be September 6 at 7pm at FPUU. We will focus on Medfield Day planning and *not* have a potluck dinner.

In October, we return to our usual format of potluck followed by business meeting. Date TBD. **ALL ARE WELCOME** to come anytime!
All are welcome!

Green Sanctuary Committee and Medfield Day Sept. 14

We will be in the center of things, along with other FP congregants. Green Sanctuary Committee is providing:

- A [Climate Ribbon](#) project and ritual – Everyone is invited to respond to the question, ***"What do you love and hope to never lose to climate chaos?"*** by writing their answer on a ribbon, then tying the ribbon to a ribbon shelter that will be in the middle of our front church yard.
- Information about the **Global Climate Strike** that is happening on September 20 (see more info below).
- Information about our **anti-idling campaign**—a community outreach and education effort that began [four years ago](#) and continues.



Global Climate Strike, Friday September 20

On September 20, three days before the UN Climate Summit in NYC, young people and adults will strike all across the US and world to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis. No matter what your age is, you are invited to join the movement.

Many, many organizations are partnering in the [Global Climate Strike](#), including the UUA, Side with Love, the UU Ministry for Earth, and Interfaith Power and Light.

A number of us from FPUU plan to leave for the Boston strike via the commuter train leaving from Walpole station. Watch for specific plans about carpooling to the station from church or meeting us there in Walpole or Boston.



Other nearby strikes are in Worcester, Andover, Providence RI, and at Lexington High School.

A play about nature, Thoreau, and Emerson

[Nature: a Walking Play](#), put on by The Trustees at Old Manse in Concord, sounds like it is right on the mark for many of us at FPUU. Jeanette Ruyle and possibly some others are going to the 5 pm performance on Sunday Sept. 22. You are welcome to purchase your own tickets and we can go together. Or go on another date and we can discuss the experience at some point. Questions, contact [Jeanette](#).

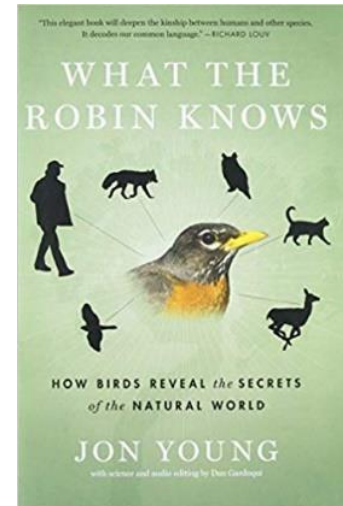


Our mission is to raise consciousness about the environment, motivate for [individual and systemic] change, generate commitment to community action, and promote environmental justice, recognizing that all injustices are connected.

Questions? Contact [Jeanette Ruyle](#). We welcome input and interest! Come to a meeting!

Green Book Club

The next meeting is **Tuesday September 24** in the vestry at 7 pm. The book is *What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World* by Jon Young. As well as reading books explicitly about climate change and climate/environmental justice, the Green Book Club offers a look at books that affirm the beauty and wonder of the world around us.



Sanctuary Flower Request



Your help is needed to ensure that we have Sunday Worship Service Flowers.

Worship Service Flowers are a wonderful way to celebrate or memorialize an occasion, event, or loved one.

If you can provide (or delegate to others) worship service flowers for one month of Sunday Services, please contact Louise Rachin at 617-429-7319 or lrachin@comcast.net.

Volunteer Opportunity at NewLife Furniture Bank Walpole



The mission of NewLife Furniture Bank of MA is to distribute "gently used"

household goods at no cost to individuals and families who need help to rebuild their lives. Our clients come to us through referrals from social service and government agencies, as well as area clergy.

First Parish is scheduled to volunteer at NewLife Furniture Bank **from 8:00 AM to Noon on Saturday morning September 21** at the warehouse in Walpole.

Please sign up on the "VolunteerSpot" website via the following three easy steps.

1. **Go to the** invitation page on the following website: VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/S3QU18>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

The warehouse is located on Route 27 at the Walpole Station Business Center. The address is 102 Elm Street, Walpole. From Medfield, take Route 27 South towards Walpole. Just after passing under a railroad overpass, take a right into the warehouse parking lot. You will see three loading docks. Enter the door to the left of the

loading docks. A NewLife volunteer should be waiting for you inside the warehouse on the first floor. The NewLife space for the stored furniture is on the fourth floor.

If you have any questions please contact Duncan Glover at 508-528-8456 or duncanglover@comcast.net

Other ways to help: NewLife relies on the generosity of residents of Medfield and the surrounding towns. They accept most basic furniture and household items in good condition. Those who are downsizing or redecorating can recycle their items, knowing they will be put to good use and kept out of landfills. Donations are tax deductible.

Information on how you can arrange for a donation can be found at www.newlifefb.org.

Other Volunteer Opportunities



Stay tuned for updates and sign-ups for coffee hour and opportunities to help during Sunday worship services.

The New and Improved Espresso Yourself Café!



We're coming back in the fall with the new and improved Espresso Yourself Cafe. Thanks to Rev. Dave's enthusiastic support, ideas and connections, we are turning Espresso Yourself Cafe into a community dinner and show with two

features and an open mic. **The first date is scheduled for Saturday September 28.**

Even though this upcoming Espresso will be on the last Saturday of September, we're going to change it up this year. Our goal is to limit the number of coffeehouses we do to only 4 or 5, scheduling them at more convenient times through the year.

We're working with a caterer who can provide a variety of menus, including delicious barbecue, Italian, Mexican and who knows what else. We're aiming to provide the community with this dinner and evening of entertainment and still raise funds for First Parish.

Some FPUU members have come forward to offer their help. Please let Thea or Shirley know if you'd like to join us in this exciting and new First Parish community role. Let's show the Metrowest community what a vibrant and fun place First Parish of Medfield is!

Building & Grounds

Church Parking Lot Trash Barrels

Dan Bibel has for a long time been emptying the trash and recycling barrels that sit to the left of the church's front steps. It's time for him to pass that job on to someone else. He takes the trash and recycling to the Medfield facility using his own pass.



In the near term, I'm looking for someone to empty the barrels the week of 8/26 and the week of 9/2.

In the longer term, I need 4-5 people who will each take on one week/month. The fifth person would only do the task in 5-week months.

Thanks for your help! This is an important part of keeping our grounds looking attractive.

Please contact David Russell if you are able to help.

**Autumn Silent Retreat
in the beauty of the Berkshires
Your Own Directed Silent Retreat
Sunday, October 20 - Friday, October 25
Rowe Camp and Conference Center
Rowe, MA**

A special invitation from Shirley Riga, Spiritual Guide



Imagine if you could get away for a four-day five-night silent retreat all to yourself in the Berkshires! Rowe's beautiful woodlands is at your beck and call to offer you time to replenish your body and spirit.

- A chance to escape the hectic world and its distractions
- Stroll the labyrinth
- Bask in a sauna
- Journal by the waterfall
- Hike the trails
- Daily yoga practice
- Libraries of books at your disposal
- And blessed silence

Imagine you also could meet privately with a spiritual guide once a day to break the silence for an opportunity to check in, ask questions, reflect, get advice and direction for your journey.

Rowe offers this silent directed retreat seasonally supported by interfaith spiritual guides. Meals consist of fresh, healthy, and delicious food, mostly vegetarian. Accommodations are simple and fresh and the atmosphere is relaxed.

I hope you will join me at this replenishing retreat.

For more information please contact Shirley Riga at Shirleyriga@gmail.com

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<http://www.firstparishmedfield.org/cms/component/content/article/45-amazon/76-ee>

Help Support the Medfield Food Cupboard



As in the past, First Parish will be collecting food items for the Medfield Food Cupboard. Donations of non-perishable, unopened, unexpired food items may be dropped off in the narthex. The Food Cupboard exists to provide assistance to residents of Medfield who are in need of supplemental or emergency food. The Medfield Food Cupboard is generously supported by the residents of Medfield, the town's churches, and various community organizations.

To meet the needs of their clients, food distributions are held approximately every 2 weeks at the Food Cupboard home: the United Church of Christ, 496 Main Street, Medfield. If you need the services of the Food Cupboard, please call us at 508-359-4958 and leave a message.

Donations of canned tuna and chicken, canned pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, applesauce, juice, pasta sauces, paper products (paper towels, Kleenex, and toilet paper), cleaning products, and health and beauty aids such as shampoo, toothpaste, and shaving razors or refills, are always welcome. Financial donations may be mailed to the Medfield Food Cupboard at PO Box 172, Medfield, MA 02052. Financial donations are used to supplement food contributions by purchasing meats, cheese, frozen items, and any item in short supply.