

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield 26 North Street, Medfield, MA (508) 359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org



March Newsletter 2020

Ministerial Musings

What is it that you love most about First Parish?

Is it that sense of community that you felt during our Community Service Sunday, where dozens of people of all ages helped clean up and beautify our church grounds? Is it the spiritual nourishment that you felt when you worship with us on Sunday mornings? Is it the friendships that you developed during our small supper potlucks? Is it the peace of mind in knowing that our children are engaged in meaningful religious exploration each week? Or is

it something else? Whatever it is that you love most about First Parish, we are so glad that you are part of this congregation of like-minded individuals.

As you probably know, our annual pledge drive begins this month. Our Annual Fund Drive Committee will be leading the drive and telling us all we need to know about our church finances and about ways we can consider what a generous pledge would look like for each of us. But

whatever amount we each determine we are able to pledge, the grounding for our generosity has to do with the ways in which we appreciate - even love - our congregation.

I have only been part of this congregation for a few months. But in that time, I have grown to love this community. When I first met with the Ministerial Search Committee a year ago, I was struck right from the start by the friendliness and warmth everyone extended to me. Turns out this was a good indicator of the friendliness and warmth that is the fabric of First Parish.

It didn't take long for me to discover the depth of commitment of First Parish folks to UU values: from our commitment to being good stewards to the environment through the work of our Green Sanctuary Committee, to the religious education that our children are participating in each week, to the wonderful music that we enjoy each Sunday,

to the warm hospitality that is exuded during our coffee hour. It is obvious that we are living our faith every day.

So what is that you love most about First Parish?

Whatever it is, we know that these things can only happen through the contributions of all of us. Therefore we will be asking everyone to pledge at some level, and will ask those of us who are able to increase our pledge by as substantial an amount, as is possible for us. I hope you'll join me, if you can, in pledging 2% or more of your adjusted income to this this congregation that we love.

Thank you in advance for your continued dedication to First Parish.

In faith and service, Rev. Dave

Community Service Sunday — Feb 23rd

Grounds Dear FPUU Members and Friends,



I just want to send a big thank you out to the dozens of folks who stayed and helped us clean up the buildings and grounds yesterday for Community Service Sunday! A fun time was had by all as we enjoyed pizza and good company. Thanks to Blanche for providing the pizza.

It was wonderful to see everyone raking and cleaning while enjoying the spring-like weather. Our children were big helpers as they transported branches and leaves in the wheelbarrow. A special thank you to David Russell and the entire Building and Grounds Committee for leading this wonderful event.

It warms this minister's heart to see this community come together and really take ownership of our beautiful campus. Thanks to all!

In faith and service, Dave

Upcoming Services

Sunday, March 1

Same Planet, Different Worlds

Rev. Dave Egan

On this Sunday, Rev. Egan will explore how the environmental crisis affects different communities differently. Through an unequal allocation of resources, policies that benefit those with wealth and power, and an exclusion of communities of color from the decision making process, environmental racism is on the rise. As our climate continues heat up, how will we learn to better take care of ALL of our neighbors, especially those who are the most vulnerable?

Sunday, March 8

Necessary Beauty

Rev. Ken Read-Brown

Rev. Ken Read-Brown, who has served First Parish UU in Hingham (Old Ship Church) since 1987, will be preaching on "Necessary Beauty." Is beauty just a pleasant frill in our lives? Or is beauty every bit as essential as truth and goodness to the health of our souls and the health of our shared lives - even or especially in challenging or tumultuous times?

Don't forget to set your clocks forward on Sunday, March 8th!

Sunday, March 15

Renewing our Covenant

Rev. Dave Egan

As our annual pledge drive formally kicks off, we will hear about why supporting First Parish is important. Every year we renew our covenant with one another to take care of this community; to give of our time, our talents, and our resources, so that we can continue to have a church to call home. On this Sunday we will gather in deep gratitude for this marvelous congregation.

Sunday, March 22

World Water Day

Worship and Music Committee

In 2010, the United Nations proclaimed that access to clean water is a human right, a right that many in the developing world currently don't have. On this Sunday, the Worship and Music Committee will lead an intergenerational worship service commemorating World Water Day, where we talk about the importance of access to clean water.

Sunday, March 29

#OKBoomer

Rev. Dave Egan

Preferred pronouns? Trigger warnings? Gender fluidity? #MeToo? Cancel culture?? Wokeness?!? ...#OKBoomer. As with each new generation, our cultural norms are shifting rapidly and many struggle to make sense of how to keep up. While much of our national dialog these days seems to focus on the generational divide, the issues at play go much deeper than age. How are we as Unitarian Universalists called to respond when our world view is challenged, and we are forced to reexamine our long-held assumptions?

Notes from the Music Director

Eva Kendrick

I am pleased to announce the inaugural season of Music at the Meetinghouse, a new concert series at our church,



supported in large part by a grant from the Medfield Local Cultural Council of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Our first concert will be held on Saturday, April 4: A Cappella through the Ages, which will feature local a cappella groups of different ages performing hits both old and new.

The second concert will be a Broadway cabaret on June 6, which will tie in with our Pride Service on June 7.

There will also be a classical concert in October featuring the poetry of Massachusetts poet Elizabeth Bishop, and the Lowell Mason Holiday Concert in December.

We are looking for a few volunteers to help with

these events. If interested, please email music@firstparishmedfield.org.

We hope you can join us for these fun evenings of music!

Sanctuary Flower Coordinator Needed for the Month of April



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

Altar flowers are used throughout the year to enhance the worship experience in the Sanctuary.

Individuals or families may sign up for any given week to provide altar flowers. They are a wonderful way to honor a special occasion (birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, holidays, etc.) or remember loved ones and friends who have passed away. Flowers can be purchased or picked from your own garden. You can even take them home with you after the service!

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.

Notes from the Church Office:

Please remember the following deadlines:



<u>Church Newsletter</u>: Typically the third Sunday of the month. – This month it will be March 22th

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

Sunday Morning Meditation Circle – March 1st



Meditation Circle in Medfield held the first Sunday of the month 9:15-10am in the U-House.

All are welcome. A safe place to practice self-care. Non-denominational. (Childcare provided)

There's a saying, "In silence we can hear our soul speak." Science has shown that silence helps our overall well-being, from lowering our blood pressure to growing more brain cells linked to remembering and emotions. Studies have found that silence is even more relaxing than 'relaxing' music. Meditation lets you be present with yourself through breath.

Come join us. Free. For more information, contact Shirley Riga (413) 537-7582 or shirleyriga@gmail.com

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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 this May, the Nominating Committee would like to welcome nominations, including self-nominations, for the Executive Board of First Parish. There will be several key positions to fill for the 2020-2021 church year.

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/parishcommittees/ 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]

Remembering Dan Bibel Memorial/Celebration of Life Service – Saturday, April 18

A Memorial/Celebration of Life service for Dan



Bibel will be held on Saturday April 18 at 11 am at First Parish. All congregants are invited. The wearing of bowties is encouraged but not required! As many of you know, Dan loved wearing bowties.

Dan's immediate family had a brief and

loving burial service for him at Vine Lake Cemetery in Medfield on February 15. Now we want to celebrate his life and our memories of him. After the service in the sanctuary there will be a reception downstairs.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the <u>Hale Center for Pancreatic Research</u> (click on Donation link) or the <u>ADL</u> (supported by Dan for many years).

See <u>obituary notice</u> at Roberts Mitchell Caruso Funeral Home of Medfield.

"UU the Vote" Update



The UUA has been developing ways for UU congregations and individuals to "UU the Vote" and integrate electoral engagement into our strategies for change. It is not new. It's a

deepening and a broadening of work that's gone on for literally generations. Watch an inspiring legacy <u>video</u> that lifts up forebearers like Francis Ellen Harper, the Unitarian who advocated as both a suffragist and an abolitionist, and Rev. James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo, two Unitarian Universalists killed during their work support the Civil Rights Movement.

It is important that we think up ways to bring our principles to the upcoming election. On the UU website, there is a list of over fifty ways to UU the Vote. These include ideas such as help collect signatures on justice-oriented ballot initiatives, pass the plate for local groups doing voter outreach, or hold a non-partisan forum in your church. And there are more ideas.

Remember March 3 is the Massachusetts

Primary. Do you know where you are voting? Look for information about your location.





Join us for...

Fair Foods at the UU Urban Ministry!

We will meet at

9:30 AM on Saturday, March 7

at the FPUU Vestry for breakfast, before carpooling into Roxbury together.

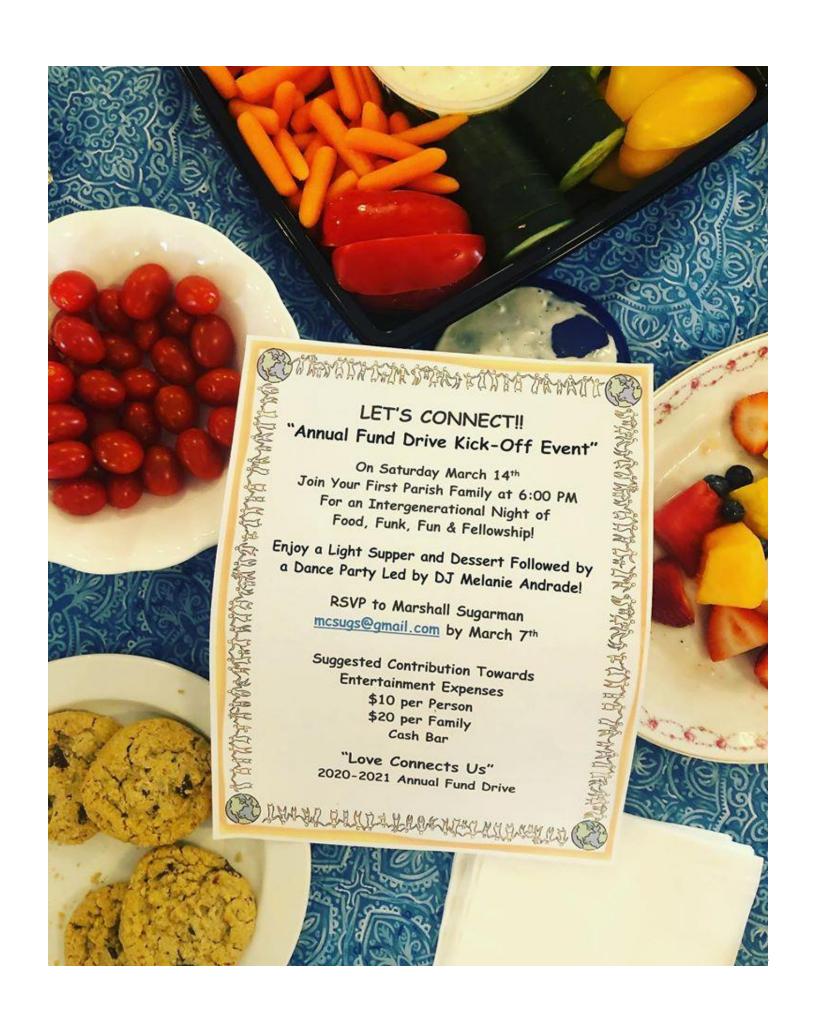
The project goes from 11:00 - 2:00 pm, but feel free to stay for as long as you like. Dress warmly as we will be working outside. Hope you can join us!

For more information, visit: www.fairfoods.org www.uuum.org









The Case for Pledging Two Percent: An Immodest Proposal

Respectfully Presented by the 2020-2021 Annual Fund Drive Committee

Dear Friends:



As members of the Annual Fund Drive Committee, we spend quite a bit of time thinking and talking about the fiscal state of First Parish, and about what needs to happen to assure that this congregation has a solid future.

We all agree that a lot of good things have happened over the past several years, which gives us hope. But some basic facts have remained unchanged: we don't have enough money, and we don't have enough people. People first: it's clear that we need more

hands for the manifold tasks our organization requires. Money second, but not least: while we have managed to pay our ministers fairly, we cannot afford sufficient hours for the rest of our staff. Just as importantly, we are unable to spend enough on capital investments (Buildings and Grounds has a to-do list that seems to get longer every year).

The encouraging news is that our church family has begun to respond to the challenge: last year's pledges came in at 14% above the previous year, testimony to our joint good will and dedication. But although the Executive Board proposed a barebones budget for the year, what we passed at the annual meeting was still a deficit budget.

So what should we do?

Many congregants feel that we need to grow. There seems to be a general consensus that modest growth, not radical growth, would be a good goal, maintaining our character as a small, friendly, welcoming congregation, in which everyone knows everyone else, while taking the edge off our ongoing frustration about getting things done and paying for them.

How do we manage that?

As a first step, the Annual Fund Drive Committee proposes a <u>substantial investment</u> in capital expenditures, starting with our worship space, over the next 3-5 years. This would turn our church home into a more welcoming and user-friendly space and could help us to attract new members.

But how would we pay for it?

Our "immodest proposal" is to suggest that we <u>all</u> commit to the UUA's definition of a "fair share," which starts at 2% of adjusted gross income. (By "adjusted gross income" we mean not the technical IRS definition, but gross income minus such major expenses as college tuition or care for a loved one.) We surmise that this would immediately bring us a decent increase in our annual budget, which could be set aside for capital improvements. If we did this for 3-5 years, the most urgent needs might be addressed, and any new members we attract would further strengthen our fiscal base.

Why is it so important to make sure that First Parish will not only survive but flourish?

We are so fortunate to have our new minister now, who is helping us to make sense of our lives and the times we live in. To support this important work, we must maintain, protect, and make available a safe and welcoming space where we can think and breathe freely, raise our children in a spirit of tolerance and hope, and maintain a spiritual community where difference is not demonized, but valued.

Friends: you already do so much. But we are writing to ask if you could do a little more. Please consider our "immodest proposal" of pledging a minimum of 2% of your adjusted gross income.

Thank you for your consideration.

Your 2020-2021 Fund Drive Committee: Mary Corthell and Marshall Sugarman (co-chairs), Chris Flaherty, Fritz Fleischmann, Duncan Glover and Louise Rachin

Green Sanctuary Committee News



Our next meeting will be Friday March 27, 2020 FPUU in the vestry. 6 pm -- potluck supper 7-9 pm — business ALL ARE WELCOME to come anytime!

FPUU Green Sanctuary Committee Mission Statement

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.

- The Green Sanctuary Committee recommends <u>UU Mass Advocacy Day</u>. **Tuesday April 14**, 2020, 9am-4pm, at the Arlington Street Church in Boston and at the State House. It is a great way to put your faith into action.
- The Mass Save report for both FPUU buildings is in. There is mention of the ancient boiler in the vestry (it could be in a museum for boilers, if there was such a thing). The GSC and B&G are on it. Stay tuned for more news.
- The worship service for Earth Day is April 19.

Questions? Contact <u>Jeanette Ruyle</u>. We welcome input and interest! Come to a meeting! We have kept up with our customary potluck dinner at meetings because it is fun and delicious, but you can show up later if you like.

Love Connects Us Brunch Thank you...



Thank You Building & Grounds Committee and Clean Up Crew

On Saturday, February 1 we had a great clean-up day at First Parish. They cleaned out the U-House basement and trimmed/raked hedges in front of the church.

(photos from Sara Drumm)









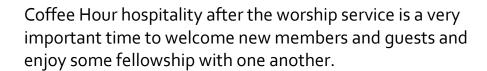
Save the Date - Annual FPUU Potluck Seder April 17





Coffee Hosts Needed

Hosts are needed for Coffee Hour for many Sundays this month and beyond.





Wondering what's involved? Copy and paste the link below for instructions. https://gallery.mailchimp.com/9b4be1edc2400001e2c88514d/files/086c945f-373a-45d2-b417-38580055656f/COFFEE_HOUR_DIRECTIONS8.2014_1_1_docx

You can sign up by the link below....
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4bada62faa8-help

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:

Canned fruit (unsweetened)
Applesauce (6packs unsweetened)
Individual snacks (granola/protein bars, cheese & crackers etc)

Jelly/Jam Rice (bags) Cereal

Because we try to offer healthy food choices, we will no longer accept candy donations.



FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 1 Meditation Circle/9:15 am/U-House

Monday, Marcch 3 The Meetinghouse Lunch Club/11:00 am/Vestry

Medfield Historical Society/7:00 pm/Vestry

Thursday, March 5 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Minister's Office

Saturday, March 7 Fair Foods at UUUM/Meet Medfield 9:00 am

Sunday, March 8 Annual Fund Drive Committee Meeting/12:00 am/Vestry

Committee on Ministry/12:00 pmU-House

Monday, March 9 The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry

Thursday, March 12 Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry

Saturday, March 14 Annual Fund Drive Kick-off Event

Monday, March 16 The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry

Thursday, March 19 Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House

Saturday, March 21 New Life Furniture Bank Volunteer Day/Walpole

Sunday, March 22 Newsletter Deadline

Monday, March 23 The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry

Thursday, March 26 RE Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Vestry

Friday, March 27 Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting & Potluck/6:00 pm/Vestry

Monday, March 30 The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry

Thursday, March 27 RE Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Vestry

