



# First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield, MA  
(508) 359-4594

[www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org)



## December Newsletter 2020

### Ministerial Musings

This holiday season is certainly like no other in recent memory. Instead of looking forward to big family get-togethers, holiday office parties, and festive choral concerts, we are told that any of these events could put ourselves and others at risk. For this time of year there are so many treasured traditions that we look forward to, that help keep us grounded, that remind

us of times long past. But now we may have to forgo these things due to an out-of-control pandemic, and it leaves us with profound feelings of loss, sadness and perhaps even anger.

But yet, as we were reminded by Father Steve Zukas who preached at the Medfield Interfaith Community Thanksgiving service, now more than ever we must learn to develop an "attitude of gratitude". For as he

said, "Upset about having to pay too much in taxes? Be grateful that you have a job. Tired of cleaning out the gutters, raking the leaves, and washing the windows? Be grateful that you have a home. Angry about that big heating bill? Be grateful that you are warm."

This is a powerful reframing of our mindset, something that is so important these days. For these days we are sure to face disappointments, losses, and even deep sorrows, but we are in control of how we respond to each of these things. Not able to see your extended family in-person this year? Be grateful that they have their health, and that we have the technology to see one another virtually. Not able to go on that tropical vacation over Christmas break? Be grateful for the small day trips you can take together as a family. Not able to go to your child's school for the traditional holiday concert this year? Be grateful that your children's teachers care enough about their students to continue to teach them, while keeping them safe. I know it takes practice, but with time we can learn to develop a spiritual practice centered around gratitude.

For let me say, that I am grateful for all of you. Over the past nine months during this pandemic,

## **FPUU Parent Support Group**

These past seven months have been hard on all of us, as we struggle to cope with a global pandemic. Nothing about any of this is easy! Please know that I am always available to talk anytime to any of you. Please don't hesitate to call or text me on my cell phone: 203-499-9684.

But I am particularly aware of how challenging this time is for our parents, as we try to balance new work routines with remote or hybrid learning for our children. We worry about the stress all of this places on our kids, fear that Covid rates will increase, and worry about our own sanity as we try to juggle it all.

Therefore as a way to help support our parents, we will be starting a FPUU Parent Support Group. The first group will meet on Oct. 7th from 7:30 - 8:30 pm. We will then meet every other Wednesday at the same time: Oct 21, Nov. 4, Nov 18. etc. (Please note Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> will be rescheduled due to another event.)

To join the Parent Support Group, click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83292714843?pwd=bnNKMzhjb2dMbZKYZhGcnVxYUpZdz09>

Meeting ID: 832 9271 4843 Passcode: 134048

we have supported one another in countless ways that showed deep compassion and love. We have played together, worshipped together, cried together, and laughed together. We have gotten through this together, and I know that we will continue to do so. And for that I am eternally grateful. Thanks to all of you for being a part of my life and for giving so fully of yourselves to this community every day.

So in closing, I would like to leave you with a quote from Thich Nhat Hahn, a Vietnamese Buddhist Monk and peace activist. He said, "Waking up this morning, I smile. Twenty-four brand new hours are before me. I vow to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with eyes of compassion."

So may it be.

In faith,  
Rev. Dave

Hope you can join us!

In faith and service,  
Rev. Dave

## Upcoming Services

**December 6**

**Try Asking the Dark Where the Light Comes From**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

As we enter the season when the days grow shorter and the nights longer, we will explore what it means to have more darkness in our world than light. Is the coming darkness something to be fearful of, or might it be something to embrace? Rev. Egan will examine this theology of darkness as a critical part of what makes us human.

**December 13**

**The Miracle of Your Light**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

This service will focus on the timeless story of the Maccabees reclaiming and rededicating their temple in Jerusalem with a single oil lamp that lasted way beyond its usual burning time. This is a powerful metaphor for the tenacity of the human spirit and the oftentimes miraculous power of the Universe to give us what we need.

**December 20**

**Solstice Service**

**R.E. Program**

This intergenerational worship service will be led by the children and adults from our Religious Exploration program. The service will focus on themes relating to Solstice, the shortest day of the year.

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve Service**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

A traditional celebration of the season, our intergenerational Christmas Eve service will feature lots of holiday stories, the lighting of candles, and traditional Christmas hymns. This service will begin at 5:30 PM.

**December 27**

**TBD**

**Worship**

**and Music Committee**

Please join us for this service led by the Worship and Music Committee.

## Religious Exploration

Religious Exploration, Neighboring Faiths, and Youth Group have been moving and grooving all November long!



**WINTER  
SOLSTICE**

Please mark your calendars for our Virtual Winter Solstice Service on December 20th! where we will be sharing how we have been making our own light this time of year!

Samantha is always open for volunteers to come help out at RE, share a skill, or to help out!

There will not be any RE December 27, and we will resume January 3, 2021!

## Semi-Annual Meeting - December 6<sup>th</sup>

All members and friends please join us for the Semi-Annual Meeting, at 11:15 on Sunday, Dec. 6. We will have important updates on church activities and initiatives at mid-year. We need 21 members to convene. Check the Meeting Warrant for the agenda.

### Warrant

Semi-Annual Meeting First Parish Unitarian Universalist  
Medfield, MA

December 6, 2020 at 11:15 AM

The Executive Board hereby notifies all voting members of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield of the Semi-Annual Parish Meeting, to be held to be held **on the Zoom conference platform** beginning at t 11:15 AM on Sunday, December 6, 2020. A quorum of 25 percent of Full Members eligible to vote at the time of posting of this notice must be present to conduct the business of the Congregation. This translates to 20 members.

In accordance with the Bylaws of First Parish Medfield (approved on June 3, 2012) in Article 4.2, the Semi-Annual Meeting is described as follows:

#### Article 4.2 Midyear Meeting

Article 4.2.1 Time and Place: A semi-annual Parish meeting is held in the fall between the first day of November and the last day of December.

Article 4.2.2 Purpose: The semi-annual Parish meeting shall be held to update the Congregation on the status of the Church at the time of the meeting and conduct any other business as determined by the Executive Board.

The following topics will be addressed at the Semi-Annual Meeting:

- Report on the general state of the Church
- Financial update, including a vote to approve an amended budget
- A motion from the Executive Board to approve the continued display of first UU Principle and the Black Lives Matter banners on the front of the Meetinghouse.
- Any other business that may be put forward by those present.

We will convene right after an abbreviated coffee hour. The meeting should last about one hour. Thank you on behalf of the Executive Board.

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## Notes from the Music Director



I am very pleased and excited to report that by the time this newsletter is published, there will be a big change in the sanctuary. We are the proud new owners of an antique baby grand piano, recently restored and kept in amazing condition.

Susan Stromgren notified the Executive Board that her friend Kathy was moving and looking to donate this beautiful piano to our church. Rich passed along the e-mail (and photos) to see what I thought, and I enlisted the help of our piano tuner Everard Huggan to assess the instrument. Everard confirmed the quality of the instrument and the durability as well. The sanctuary piano will be moving to the vestry, so we will have a good quality piano down there for Espresso Coffeehouse, band practice and more.

I wanted to offer a huge thank you to all who helped coordinate this exciting new chapter in the musical life of this church, especially Susan Stromgren for all of her coordination, Rev. Dave and the Executive Board and the piano mover Mark Bushell! I look forward to making many new musical memories on our new piano, and I can't wait for you to hear it!

## LOWELL MASON

## HOLIDAY CONCERT

Please tune in on Medfield TV (Comcast Channel 8 or Verizon Channel 47) or online at [www.medfield.tv/watch](http://www.medfield.tv/watch) to watch the virtual Lowell Mason Holiday Concert premiering on Saturday, December 5 at 7 p.m. There will be many wonderful performances including our own FPUU Medfield Choir, Becca, John and Rachel Kornet, concert pianist David McGrory, and many more! In lieu of tickets, virtual attendees can make a donation to the nonprofit Lowell Mason House at [www.lowellmasonhouse.net](http://www.lowellmasonhouse.net).

# **From the Halloween Costume Gathering Saturday 10/31/2020 at FPUU**



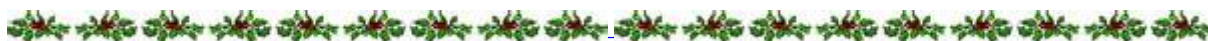
**(Photo courtesy of Kirsten D'Abate)**

# Please join us for the Virtual First Parish Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**

**Invite your family and friends to join in the magic. We will have special music, including our Choir. We will have stories traditional and modern from our young adults. We will have singing from all and bright candles of joy and celebration and hope renewing itself.**



## **Notes from the Church Office:**



Please remember the following deadlines:

*Church Newsletter:* Third Sunday of the month.

*Order of Service:* Wednesdays by 5:00 pm.

Church Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Email: [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

# Social Justice Incubator News

In case you are still wondering about our name—the Social Justice Incubator—and why we decided to call it that, here is an answer. First, our mission statement: **“The Social Justice Incubator fosters congregation-based social justice initiatives, inspiring people through study, dialogue, reflection, and action. We invite, support and nurture social justice action taken by individuals or groups within our congregation, understanding that there are a wide variety of views and perspectives among FPUU members and friends.”**

Rather than reestablish a traditional type of social justice committee, in June 2020 the original group of volunteers decided to form an “incubator” group. “To incubate,” according to the dictionary (and once one gets beyond sitting on eggs), is “to cause or aid in the development of.” *If you have an idea for a social justice project, activity, or action of some kind, please let us know. We want to work with individuals and/or groups to nurture and grow these efforts.* For social justice initiatives of various kinds already happening within the congregation, we hope the SJI is seen as a source of encouragement and support.

We believe the SJI, as a working group, calls for shared leadership and responsibilities. Feel free to contact any one of us with questions and your thoughts, or if you would like to join us.  
Kay Bennett, Thea Iberall, Becca Kornet, Jeanette Ruyle



## Collection for Chaplains on the Way



Social Action Opportunity:

Thank you to all for your generous donations to the Clothing & Blanket Drive to support Chaplains on the Way ([www.chaplainsontheway.us](http://www.chaplainsontheway.us)). Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

The following items are currently most needed:

**Sleeping bags, sweatpants, caffeinated coffee and disposable masks**

Because the church building will be closed for the foreseeable future, the drop-off site is Louise Rachin's garage, 11 King Philip Trail, Norfolk. Free free

to call or text Louise at 617-429-7319 with questions or to schedule a delivery time.

Thank you so much!



# Green Sanctuary Committee News



**Our next meeting is December 18, via Zoom, 7pm  
ALL ARE WELCOME! Email [Jeanette Ruyle](mailto:Jeanette.Ruyle) for a Zoom link.**

## **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.***

### **Anti-idling again!**

Four years ago, the GSC started an anti-idling campaign in Medfield. Flyers and a video were designed and created with the help of Medfield high school students. Anti-idling signs were put up at several places in town. Letters were written. Medfield TV and newspapers helped deliver the message. The Green Sanctuary received a "Cool Congregation" award from the MA Interfaith Power and Light in 2017 for this community outreach and education.

The GSC is very aware that ongoing reminders and education are needed when it comes to trying to reduce and eliminate motor vehicle engine idling. As long as there are still fossil-fueled cars and trucks being driven, this will be needed. Several of us on the GSC have had the experience of gathering up our courage and speaking to someone who has been idling their car for over the 5-minute legal limit. The responses have varied from polite surprise and compliance to frank annoyance and defiance. Most of the time people end up turning off their engines.



Winter is a good time to renew awareness of the harm (and illegality) of engine idling. If you look carefully at this title photo of the [YouTube video](#) made by the MHS students, you can see it is wintertime. Much of it was filmed outside in winter weather.

Think you need to run the engine for a while to warm it up in cold weather? Think

again. [Popular Mechanics](#) says, "Warming up your car before driving is a leftover practice from a time when carbureted engines dominated the roads... Unless you're rolling in a 1970s Chevelle—which we assume isn't your daily driver—bundle up, scrape off your car, and get it moving."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EA-RerqAA4>



## Building & Grounds



We kicked November off with an outdoor workday on the 1<sup>st</sup>. In attendance: Rev. Dave Egan; Rich Mastronardi; Eve Potts; Bo, Jackson, and Nate Razza; Don and Margaret Rolph; David and William Russell; Jeanette Ruyle; David Stephenson; David Temple; and Blanche Teyssier. Thanks to all for raking up the first round of leaves and bagging them, and a special nod to Nate Razza for taking them to the town compost. Apologies if I missed any names!

Meanwhile, David Maxson is pursuing an insulation installation for the meetinghouse, paid for by MassSave. Preliminaries are complete; we await a date for the work to begin.

## Help Support for FPUU through Amazon.com

**Remember that if you are using Amazon.com, you can help support First Parish!**

**Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com Through AmazonSmile, you can help raise money for First Parish just by shopping and it will not cost you a anything! All you have to do is choose First Parish as your charitable organization, and start shopping! This link will take you directly to Amazon using First Parish as your charitable organization. This link can also be found at the bottom of our webpage. First Parish will receive about .5% of what you order and will not cost you anything!!! (One important note - Only items placed in the shopping basket AFTER clicking the above link will be activated in the program)**



**[https://www.amazon.com/?ie=UTF8&%2AVersion%2A=1&%2Aentries%2A=0&link\\_code=hom&tag=firstparisuuch01](https://www.amazon.com/?ie=UTF8&%2AVersion%2A=1&%2Aentries%2A=0&link_code=hom&tag=firstparisuuch01)**

Peace  
For  
Earth

## FPUU Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 1	Choir Rehearsal/Zoom Staff Meeting/5:00 pm/Zoom
Wednesday, December 2	Parent Support Group/7:30 pm/Zoom
Thursday, December 3	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Saturday, December 5	Lowell Mason Concert/Zoom
Sunday, December 6	Semi-Annual Meeting/11:15/Zoom
Tuesday, December 8	Choir Rehearsal/Zoom
Thursday, December 10	Hanukkah Begins at Sundown Youth Group/Zoom
Thursday, December 12	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Friday, December 11	Membership Committee Meeting/12:00 pm/Zoom
Wednesday, December 16	Parent Support Group/7:30 pm/Zoom
Thursday, December 17	Neighboring Faiths/Zoom Executive Board Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Friday, December 18	Green Sanctuary Committee/7:00 pm/Zoom
Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service/5:30 pm/Zoom
Friday, December 25	Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 29	Staff Meeting/5:00 pm/Zoom
Wednesday, December 30	Parent Support Group/7:30 pm/Zoom

