

# *First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield*

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



## January Newsletter 2021

### Ministerial Musings

As has been said many times before, 2020 has been an historically disruptive and difficult year. Last winter, we watched our highly divisive president get impeached, something that has only happened three times in US history. As that travesty unfolded, we heard whispers of a new novel coronavirus spreading overseas. But not to worry, we were told, it would be like SARS or Ebola, only a problem for those people over there. Instead, as winter turned into spring, COVID-19 spread like wildfire all over the globe, hitting us harder than any virus had in a hundred years. As the summer approached, we were told to cancel our vacation plans and stay home. Then we

witnessed a police officer put his knee on George Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, taking away his dignity, his breath, and his life. This horrible event, along with the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and many others, named and unnamed, finally began to wake us up to the painful consequences of systemic racism. As protests spread across the country, Covid deaths spiked, and somehow mask wearing became a divisive issue, we braced ourselves for a fall election season filled with vitriol, anger and lies.

Now, during this holiday season, as we hunker down in our homes, fearful of the rising Covid rates, we wonder who will be infected next. We worry about our friends and family members who are sick. We wonder if we might be next. There has been so much loss this year; loss of stability, loss of employment, loss of certainty, loss of physical touch, loss of connection, loss of health, and loss of life. Yet, as we welcome in a new year, we are also seeing glimmers of hope. We finally have clarity of what our new US leadership will look like, we are seeing friends and family receive the vaccine, and we are finding innovative and safe ways to stay connected with those we love.

As I look back at this year and all we have been through as a nation, I am so grateful that we have been able to keep our community so vibrant and alive here at First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield. For this has been a year when we have needed the support of this congregation more than ever.

But not only did we survive 2020, we thrived. Think of all we have accomplished here at FPUU in the past nine months! We have learned how to: offer high-quality, interactive, online worship services with wonderful music; provide vitally-important virtual religious education for our children and youth; direct our talented choir from the safety of our homes; engage in racial and social justice work through the leadership of the new Social Justice Incubator; gather together in safe ways for fun and uplifting social events; contribute our hard-earned money to our current Bridge the Covid Chasm Fundraiser; and provide a home, meals, and comfort to those who are going through a hard time, who just need a reminder that we are there for them.

Thank you to each and every one of you, for all you have contributed this past year. For you have all, in your own unique way, built this community everyday with your dedication, creativity, and love.

In faith and service,  
Rev. Dave

## Christmas Eve Candle Light Service Donation



We are pleased to announce that a total of \$585.00 (to date) was received following the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service. This collection will be sent to the UU Urban Ministry to co-sponsor an upcoming Community Conversations Speaker Series.

Thank you to all those who contributed!

## Upcoming Worship Services

**January 3**

**Release 2020, Welcome Hope**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

As we say goodbye to 2020 and welcome in the new year, we ask ourselves: What's holding us back? What's getting in the way of living as fully as we'd like? What from the past year might we burn away and release? During this burning bowl service, you will be invited to write down those things that you wish to leave behind from 2020, and release them back into the universe.

**January 10**

**Blessing of the Animals**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

During this intergenerational worship service, all are invited to introduce your pets or stuffed animals to the congregation. There will be a time for your furry friend to receive a special blessing, testimonials from our children, and fun music to celebrate our beloved animals. For especially during these trying times, we know that our pets bring us much needed comfort and love.

**January 17**

**De-Centering Whiteness**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

"White supremacy" is a provocative phrase, as it conjures up images of mobs in white hoods. However, actual "white supremacists" aren't required to uphold white supremacist culture — that is, the set of institutional assumptions and practices, often operating unconsciously, that tend to benefit white people and exclude people of color. Please join us for this collaborative worship service, featuring FPUU members who participated in the De-Centering Workshop this past fall.

**January 24**

**Poetry Sunday**

**Worship and Music Committee**

Are you stirred by the poetic rhythm and evocative imagery found within poetry? When you hear the lyrical quality of the spoken word, are you transported to another time and place? If so, then come join us this Sunday when Louise Rachin and the Worship and Music Committee will present a soulful and thought-provoking service filled with wonderful poetry and music.

**Sunday, January 31**

**After COVID: Let's Dream!**

**Rev. Dave Egan & colleagues**

Join us for this collaborative worship service including several local ministers, where we will exercise our imaginations and share dreams about what happens next. How do we imagine the pandemic will affect different parts of our culture? What does church look like after COVID? Justice after COVID? Love after COVID? Joining us will be ministers from Quincy, Salem, Reading, Canton, Bridgewater, Middleborough, and Cohasset.

**The UU Urban Ministry presents:**

# **Community Conversations**



## **What's Happening to Roxbury: A Conversation on Gentrification and Displacement**

*featuring Roxbury native and life-  
long resident Marisa Luse*

**Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

**6 - 7:30 pm**

**Lecture and Facilitated Q&A**

Join the Meeting: [bit.ly/UUUMccJan](https://bit.ly/UUUMccJan)

Call-in details available at [uuum.org](https://uuum.org)

*This event is online only.*

*Special thanks to Follen Community Church  
and First Parish in Lexington*



@uuurbanministry



# FPUU Virtual Paint Night!

## January 10, 5:00 pm

**Open to all ages!**

Come paint a lovely owl winter scene led by Jess Razza and hosted by Religious Exploration!

We have 14 paint sets available to for those who sign up: paint, canvas, and brushes! If we fill up slots or you just want to do your own – feel free to still join! It will be a great time! Here are some action shots of the Razzas preparing for Paint Night!



If you would like to join, please sign up with Samantha at [cre@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:cre@firstparishmedfield.org). Supplies will be picked up by appointment on the afternoon of the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**WARNING:** Paint given out is ACRYLIC. It will not wash off many surfaces and clothing. Dress and prepare accordingly!

## Religious Exploration

Samantha Decker Nemeth

Happy January, everyone! We are now in the New Year of 2021 filled with hopes and dreams. This past month, Religious Exploration has continued to thrive and performed their Winter Solstice Service - virtually! Kudos to the class of 2020-2021 and all that they accomplished for this service – we hope you enjoyed it!



For Neighboring Faiths, we have covered Buddhism and Episcopalianism with speakers from both faiths. Coming in January, we will be learning about Scientology through videos and literature.

On January 10 at 5:00 pm, from the comfort of your own home!, you can participate in a virtual Paint Night, with our very own Jess Razza as our paint instructor.

Samantha Decker Nemeth  
Coordinator of Religious Education

## Notes from the Music Director

Eva Kendrick

Thank you to Susan Stromgren, the Executive Board, Rev Dave and the Worship & Music Committee for the support of installing the new piano. Here are some pictures of the event!

Thank you so much to our choir for all of their work during the holiday season to practice and record 7 videos for the Lowell Mason Holiday Concert, Community Thanksgiving Service and our Christmas Eve Service.

Happy Holidays to all!  
Eva





## New Sign on Wayside Pulpit

Dear First Parish Community,

For those who were at the semi-annual meeting on Dec. 6th, you know that the congregation voted to keep a Black Lives Matter sign, of some kind, on our church property. But that it was time for the two large banners to come down, largely because they were not holding up well to the weather and that one was hard to read from a distance.

The Social Justice Incubator group, in consultation with the Building and Grounds Committee, were entrusted to come up with a solution that would work well moving forward. In our thoughtful and inclusive discussion, we considered a number of factors including: the historic aesthetics of our meetinghouse, the durability of sign materials, a temporary vs. a more long-term statement, and the option of focusing on other social justice ideas we may want to focus on in the future.

We decided that a solid permanent sign hanging from the wayside pulpit achieved most, if not all of these goals. Typically, the wayside pulpit features social justice quotes, as chosen by our Wayside Pulpit Ministry Team. This year the chosen focus of the wayside pulpit has been largely on anti-racism issues. The quotes inside the wayside pulpit will change regularly; the new sign will not.

Though at some point in the future, we as a congregation may choose to focus on another social justice issue. Therefore, we will hold a vote at every annual meeting to decide if we would like the new sign to be repainted to express another idea for the upcoming church year, perhaps focusing on climate change, immigration, or any other issue we deeply care about.

I would like to thank all of you for being an important part of this conversation on how best to express our U.U. ideals to the world.

Onward!  
Rev. Dave



# Bridging the Covid-Chasm Campaign

December 23, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of First Parish,

As you know, we have begun our "Bridge the Covid-Chasm" campaign to raise \$25,000. A big "Thank You" to those of you who have already made donations. To date, we are about 1/3 of the way to our goal. We still have a good way to go and continue to hope for 100% participation. Also, below you will find information about a special 2020 Tax Deduction of up to \$300, available even to those who do not itemize deductions. It's part of the Government's efforts to help non-profits like us during these difficult times. We hope that you can take advantage of this when you make your donation.

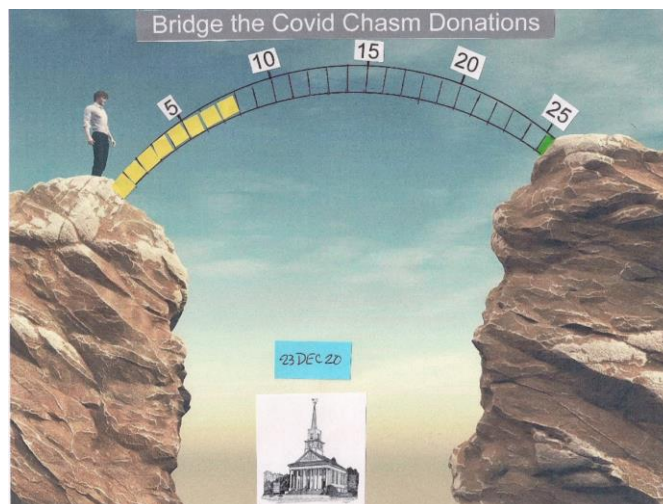
You can make your donation on our website or by mailing a check.

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=6ANST8DHKECJE](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=6ANST8DHKECJE)

First Parish UU Medfield  
PO Box 215  
Medfield, MA 02052

On behalf of your Executive Board, we wish you a very happy and safe Holiday Season.

Rich Mastronardi



# Green Sanctuary Committee News



Our next meeting is January 22, via Zoom, 7pm  
ALL ARE WELCOME! Email [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 continued

As was stated in our last newsletter, the GSC started an anti-idling campaign in Medfield four years ago and continues to raise awareness about this issue. Fritz Fleischman recently wrote an [article](#) that was published in the Medfield Hometown Weekly and the Patch (Dec. 7). Important points were made about the negative effects of idling on air quality, climate change, and the car engine itself. "Now, as winter approaches, it is time to think about our own driving habits: what can we do to help preserve our health and a living environment?"

### About UUMFE

The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth embodies our faith's commitment to "bold, accountable action for environmental justice, climate justice, and the flourishing of all life." It is worth checking out their website where you can find these compelling values:

- *We are grounded in faith and spirituality.* We affirm and promote the [seven principles of Unitarian Universalism](#) as well as the proposed [8th principle](#) of Unitarian Universalism, and we understand climate justice to be a moral imperative.
- *We are grounded in environmental justice.* We affirm and promote the [framework of race- and class-informed environmental justice](#) and strive to center the leadership and needs of frontline communities.
- *We are grounded in partnership and collective action.* We know that individual consumption choices are not enough; it is only through [partnership and collective action](#) that we can save our biosphere.

**Unitarian Universalists are called to bring the  
interdependent web of life back into balance**



Poetry Sunday is on January 24, 2021



**ROSES ARE RED  
VIOLETS ARE BLUE  
SHARE A FAVORITE POEM,  
READING, SONG OR HAIKU**

**POETRY SUNDAY JANUARY 24th  
Read, recite, sing or listen...  
Please join us for this zoom service.**

**Contact Louise Rachin at [lrachin@comcast.net](mailto:lrachin@comcast.net)  
By Wednesday January, 20th if you would like  
your selection listed in the order of service.**

## Notes from the Church Office:



Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. **January 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

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## Online Donations



You are now able to submit your weekly offering and annual pledges electronically.

1. Copy and paste the link below to donate:  
[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=6ANST8DHKECJE&Z3JncnBo=](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=6ANST8DHKECJE&Z3JncnBo=)
2. This link can be found on our website: [www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org) and you will see on the bottom of each page a "donate" button.
3. You can scan the QR Code below.





## FPUU Calendar of Events

Friday, January 1	New Year's Day
Thursday, January 7	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Sunday, January 10	Paint Night/5:00 pm/Zoom
Thursday, January 14	Youth Group/6:00 pm/Zoom
Monday, January 15	MLK Day/Office Closed
Thursday, January 21	Neighboring Faiths/6:30 pm/Zoom Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Friday, January 22	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Sunday, January 24	Poetry Sunday Newsletter Deadline

