

# First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield, MA  
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[www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org)



## March Newsletter 2021

### Ministerial Musings

"The important thing is to be able at any moment to sacrifice what you are for what you can become." ~ from *Charles Dubois, Spiritual Divorce* by Debbie Ford

It's that time of year again, when you are asked to dig deep and renew your pledge of financial support to the work of the church. As we reach the one year mark of on-line worship services (our first Zoom Sunday was March 15th, 2020), we have learned much about how to be a community during difficult and strange times – most especially, how to continue to support one another

as our needs and available resources constantly change.

We have learned, for sure, how to make sacrifices.

Sacrifice: the act of giving up something that you want to keep especially in order to get something else or to help someone, often as an act of faith.

It can seem hard to continue being generous with our money and ourselves when outcomes are so uncertain. We have no idea what will be in our individual and communal lives. There is no guarantee that things will ever go back to

“normal”, and so it may seem prudent to hang on to whatever resources we still have, just in case.

But the thing is, even though it may feel like it sometimes, life hasn't stopped; the world has not stopped turning and there are still people in great need. Our faith is calling us, more than ever, to act on our principles and convictions; to find new ways on being in the world that support justice work and liberation for all.

And, just as importantly, we continue to need each other and this community to keep us strong and grounded.

So this month, as we talk about money, and what it means to give up things we would really rather hang on to, let us keep open minds and generous hearts, trusting that what we do for one, we do for all.

In faith,  
Rev. Dave

## Upcoming Services

Sunday, March 7	Peace is Every Step	Rev. Dave Egan
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How do we invite equilibrium, non-attachment, and compassion into our lives or, if we have them, how do we increase their presence and power? Developing compassion for ourselves requires us to see and accept ourselves exactly as we are. Only then can we have compassion for others. It is from a place of compassion we then can grow into people of peace.

Sunday, March 14	Renewing Our Covenant	Rev. Dave Egan
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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 21	Guest Speaker	Rev Rebecca Sheble-Hall
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On this Sunday, the Rev. Sheble-Hall from Chaplains on the Way will be our guest speaker. She will describe her experience of going out into the streets of Waltham to bring a ministry of spiritual care and hope to those who are experiencing homelessness, living in poverty, dealing with mental illness and/or addiction. We hope you will join us for this important service.

Sunday, March 28	It's a Spring Thing!	Rev. Dave Egan
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The vernal equinox is March 20, which makes it quite official. No guarantees on the weather, of course, but our RE kids are ready to go. They invite you to share this special intergenerational worship service with them. Join us to celebrate all the possibilities of the brand-new season.

## Religious Exploration



Happy March!

During Religious Exploration we have been talking about what it means to show

courage and bravery and comparing those two concepts and how it pertains to our present-day life and what we hope to have for the future.

For the Month of March, we will continue exploring this as well as discussing the proposed 8th Principle in our kid-friendly terms: Build the beloved community, free from racism and oppression.

Also during March, we will be discussing the Vernal Equinox and will be preparing testimonials on "What does springtime mean to me?"

Religious Exploration will also be hosting an RE Social Time on March 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:15 for fun conversations, check ins, and games. It will be a place for the kids to talk and see each other outside of their Sunday RE class! Additionally, we will be having Virtual Game Night on March 21st at 5 PM. We will be playing an online version of Pictionary!

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Samantha Decker Nemeth  
Coordinator of Religious Education

## Online Service Sponsors for the Month of March

Sunday, March 7 Margaret & Don Rolph  
Sunday, March 14 Sarah Zitoli & Michael Dewhirst  
Sunday, March 21 The Egan Family  
Sunday, March 28 Margaret & Don Rolph

Thank you!

The cost to film a service to post online is \$40.00. We still have openings in May and June. If you would like to sponsor a service please send your donation to FPUU with a note in the memo. If you would like to sponsor a service to honor an occasion or loved one, please provide the information needed and it will be posted in the order of service for that given Sunday.



## Neighboring Faiths



While we have not been able to visit houses of worship as part of the Neighboring Faiths program this year, we have been able to have virtual classes and the kids have learned a lot!

So far this church year, we have had virtual classes on...

- Buddhism, where we were joined by Andy Wood, an educator from the Zen Buddhist Center in Cambridge, who (among other things) taught the kids how to meditate
- Catholicism, where we attended a virtual church service at the Church of the Advent in Medfield, followed by a Zoom class including the church's Rector Marc Eames
- Scientology – the first time the NF class has chosen this! Since we can't get access to anyone practicing Scientology, Andy Nemeth (Samantha's husband) learned all about it and taught this class!
- Islam, where we were joined by Saadia Husain Baloch from the Islamic Center of Boston/Wayland who did a wonderful job of educating the kids about Islam and sharing her own experiences (including Hajj in Mecca!)

Here's what we've got planned for the rest of the year:

- Two classes on ancient traditions (Celtic and Egyptian) in March, led by Sophie Davis, an initiated Celtic shaman (and John Kornet's cousin!)
- Judaism in April – to be determined, but we will likely attend a virtual service and/or have one of the Rabbis from Temple Beth David in Westwood join us for a Zoom class
- Hinduism in May – due to lack of contacts at the Sri Lakshmi temple in Ashland, this class will likely incorporate videos and other information about Hinduism in the US and around the world

We are so thankful for the kids for their patience and flexibility, their attentiveness to our presenters, and their thoughtful questions during our classes!

## Notes from the Church Office:

Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. – March 21st

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)



## Annual Fund Drive

**WE'RE SHARING TOGETHER & THRIVING TOGETHER!!!**  
**SO WHO'S IN FOR A ZOOM PIZZA & GAME NIGHT TOGETHER???**  
**ALL AGES WELCOME!!!**



**WHEN: SATURDAY MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6:00 -?**  
**WHERE: YOUR HOUSE**

**WE'LL PROVIDE THE VIRTUAL GAMES**

**BYOP**

**(Bring Your Own Pizza)**

**&**

**BYOB**

**(Bring Your Own Beverages)**

**SHARING TOGETHER**  **THRIVING TOGETHER**

**Brought to you by your 2021-2022 Fund Drive Committee**





**SHARING TOGETHER**



**THRIVING TOGETHER**

**SAVE THESE DATES!!!!**



-  7:00 PM SATURDAY MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> PIZZA/GAME NIGHT VIA ZOOM
-  10:00 AM SUNDAY MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FUND DRIVE SERVICE VIA ZOOM
-  6:00 PM SATURDAY APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> FIRE PIT SOCIAL ON THE MEETING HOUSE
- GREEN**
-  10:00 AM SATURDAY APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> COMMITMENT SUNDAY SERVICE VIA ZOOM

**SHARING TOGETHER**



**THRIVING TOGETHER**

**Brought to you by your 2021-2022 Fund Drive Committee**

## Daylight saving time will begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 14



## Anti-Racist Book Discussion Group



So far this church year, we have discussed Ibram X Kendi's "How to be an Antiracist," Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow," and Isabel Wilkerson's "Caste." Our next book will be Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me." Date March 31 at 7:30 pm. If you're interested in participating, please contact Becca Kornet at [becca\\_kornet@yahoo.com](mailto:becca_kornet@yahoo.com). All are welcome to join these vibrant discussions, including those from outside the FPUU community.

## 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:

**Coffee**

**Masks**

**Medium Sized Hand Sanitizer**

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. Feel 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 **March 19**, via Zoom, 7pm  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!** Email [Jeanette Ruyle](#) for a  
Zoom link.

**We in the Green Sanctuary Committee are going to be busy planning the FPUU Earth Day Worship Service for April 18, 2021. In the meantime, here is some food for thought and action—**

### **Climate Action in the Coffee you Drink:**

#### [The Equal Exchange Model of Environmental Stewardship](#)

We are very grateful to Equal Exchange for providing us with a thoughtful and informative online presentation on the evening of February 4<sup>th</sup>. Congregants, well as a few people from the wider community, attended. You can view the [recording](#) of the whole event if you missed it or if you want to see again the fabulous slides presenter Sarah Jones put together.



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### **MA Climate Bill—an update**

On January 28, the MA legislature again approved a sweeping climate change bill and sent it back to Gov. Baker who had vetoed it just days before. On Feb. 7, Gov. Baker sent the bill back to the Legislature, this time with amendment proposals.

The climate bill sets benchmarks for reaching a goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Boosting offshore wind energy and improving efficiency standards for appliances and cars are among the requirements. The proposal also designated “environmental justice” communities, requiring that proposed projects that could hurt such a community’s air quality develop an environmental impact report.

As always, you can [write to Gov. Baker](#) and to your [Senator and Representative](#) and let them know your views on this.

**Remember...**





# Social Justice Incubator (SJI) Update

## Formation of Anti-racism Task Force for FPUU

The prevailing metaphor for our SJI is an umbrella. We are an umbrella for any and all social justice initiatives and projects at FPUU. The [FPUU website](#) lays this out. Since its beginning, the members of SJI have had a growing focus on anti-racism. At our February meeting, we decided to form a specifically named Anti-racism Task Force that is now under the umbrella of the SJI. This Task Force will meet monthly for the time being, and SJI will meet quarterly or when needed. Participation in either group is open to any interested congregant. Please contact [Becca Kornet](#).

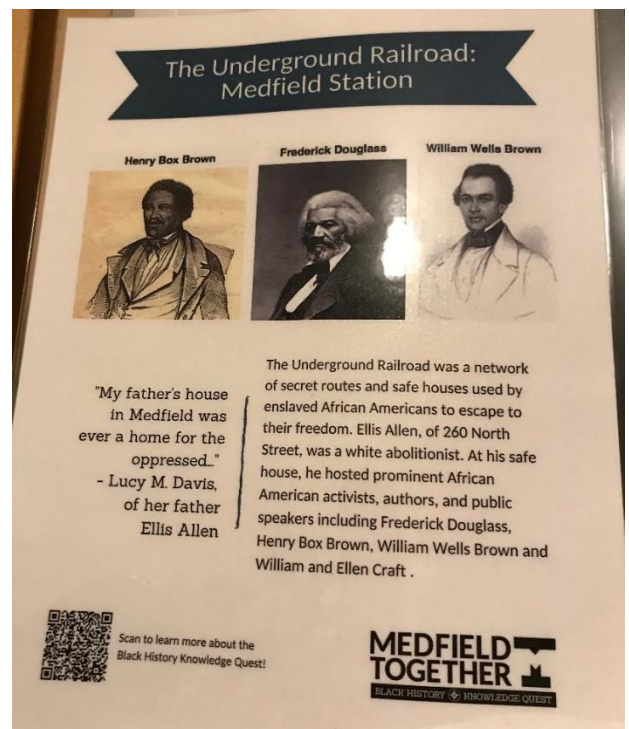
A few of the ideas the Anti-racism Task Force have been discussing are--

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and how FPUU might adopt it
- Ongoing learning(s) for congregants, and as a whole congregation, regarding anti-racism
- Taking part in the Black Lives Matter Working Group of UU Mass Action
- Working with the Worship and Music Committee on possible worship service elements

## In Medfield – Black History Month

A representative from [Medfield Together](#), FPUU congregant Nicole Hall, approached the SJI in late January about possibly partnering with them in their Black History Month project. The proposal to have FPUU be one of the locations for a “portal” sign (pictured here) was endorsed by the SJI and passed on the Executive Board who gave their approval. Below is the project description from Medfield Together.

“Medfield Together invites you to celebrate Black History Month with us on a “Black History Knowledge Quest”. Families and individuals are challenged to visit various locations throughout Medfield to find Black history portals. A total of 20 significant individuals are featured at Portals around Medfield, in windows of downtown businesses and at Medfield Public Schools. Find as many people as you can - if you like solving mysteries, use the puzzle decoders on our website to find the portal locations. There are inventors, scholars, athletes, artists, and other trailblazers! Then enter our contest to win a gift card to Park Street Books! Head to our website for contest entry information! <https://www.medfieldtogether.com/black-history-knowledge-quest/>”



Thank you, Nicole, for the opportunity to be part of this creative effort!

## FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, March 1	Peace Shall Ministry/7:30 pm/Zoom
Thursday, March 4	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Wednesday, March 10	Committee on Ministry Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom RE Social Time/6:30 pm/Zoom
Thursday, March 11	Youth Group/6:00 pm/Zoom Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Saturday, March 13	Pizza & Game Night/6:00 pm/Zoom
Monday, March 15	Peace Shall Ministry/7:30 pm/Zoom
Thursday, March 18	Neighboring Faiths/6:30 pm/Zoom Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/Zoom
Friday, March 19	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Sunday, March 21	April Newsletter Deadline RE Virtual Game Night/5:00 pm/Zoom
Thursday, March 25	RE Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Zoom
Monday, March 29	Peace Shall Ministry/7:30 pm/Zoom
Tuesday, March 30	Staff Meeting/5:00 pm/Zoom
Wednesday, March 31	Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group/7:30 pm/Zoom

