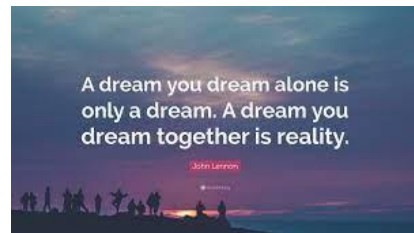


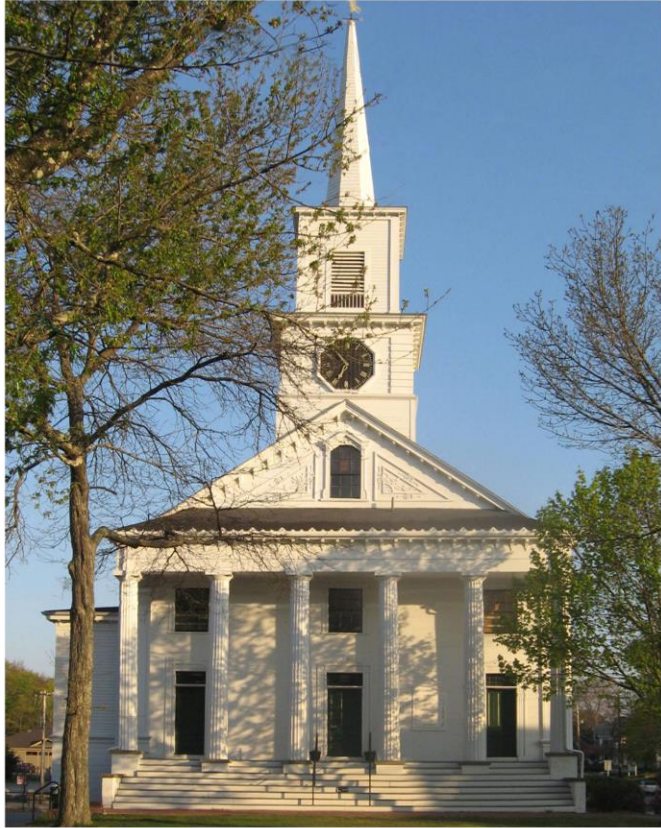
# *First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield*

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

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



**BUILDING OUR DREAM TOGETHER**



## **February Newsletter 2022**

### **Ministerial Musings**

I am so excited to be able to share with you all a place that is near and dear to my heart: Ferry Beach, the UU retreat center in Saco Maine. It is a special place where my family's UU congregations have been going together since I was two years old. As you have probably seen in the weekly announcements, we will be going as a congregation over the weekend of May 13-15. Many of you have already expressed interest in joining us. Registration through the Ferry Beach office will begin in a few weeks. I will keep you posted.

This past summer, when my family camped for a week at Ferry Beach, it was a bit different. Usually my sister's and my family camp in the Grove, while my mom stays in one of the handicapped accessible rooms. But this summer my mom was not there. For the month prior to our Ferry Beach week, my sister and I were trading off being with mom at home 24/7, waiting for her inevitable death as her terminal lung cancer spread. We decided that my sister would stay home with mom for the first half of the Ferry Beach week, while the rest of the family was in Maine, and then we would trade off mid-week.

Before driving up to Maine, we all stopped at my mom's house and said our final goodbyes. My daughters and my niece broke down at her bedside, not quite knowing how to say "I love you" to their beloved grandma for the last time. My wife said, "Thank you for sharing your son with me." I was speechless, feeling like it all had been said, over and over again, ever since receiving her terminal diagnosis 4 years earlier.

It was a bit surreal being at Ferry Beach. I tried to enjoy myself, but I knew that the call could come from my sister at any time that our mom had died. The first time I waded out into the cold Maine waters, I noticed that a huge algae bloom had taken over. Normally the water was so clear, fresh, and invigorating. But not this summer. Now I had to trudge out 20 feet until I was past the muck, until I got to the clear waters where it was good for swimming.

I couldn't help but think that this was how it was for my mom as well this summer. Over the years she has told me that she is not afraid of death, that she is quite sure that her existence will continue on in new and unimaginable ways. She and I had

shared many cups of coffee and long theological talks about our souls and what it means to be on this journey as spiritual beings. No, she was not afraid of death; it was the dying that she worried about. She knew if she could just get through these 20 feet of muck in front of her, that soon she would be able to swim free in the clear open waters of eternity.

When it was mid-week, I drove back to my mom's house to stay with her, while my sister went and joined her family up at Ferry Beach. The next night my mom quietly passed away peacefully. I was heart broken, and at the same time relieved. Her suffering had gone on long enough. We buried some of my mom's ashes in the memorial garden at Ferry Beach, right next to the majestic outdoor chapel among the tall pines, a place that meant so much to her. I look forward to being there with you all in a few months.

Many blessings,  
Rev. Dave

## From the Reopening Task Force

Dear Members and Friends,

In the face of Omicron's onslaught, First Parish went fully remote for January. The current plan is to continue with fully remote services in February. With some hopeful signs of declining numbers of infections and transmissibility, we may be able to resume in-person services before the end of next month, but it is too early to make that decision. We will make every effort to return to hybrid as soon as possible but not before it is safe to do so. The Task Force will keep the congregation updated as we continue to monitor state and local COVID positivity rates.

With hope for the future,  
The Reopening Task Force

## Upcoming Worship Services

**February 6**

**Love By Any Other Name**

**Rev. Jennifer Johnson**

Today, we welcome to our pulpit Rev. Jennifer Johnson, minister at First Parish UU Church in Bridgewater, while Rev. Dave preaches in Bridgewater. The singular word “love” in the English language masks an underlying diversity of feelings and relationships that this one word describes: romantic love, familial love, platonic love, love of nature, love of life itself – to name a few. Too often, our U.S. culture gives priority to the first of these: romantic love. This morning we will seek to expand our “love vocabulary,” helping us to notice the diverse ways love speaks in our hearts and manifests in our world.

**February 13**

**Punishment vs. Protection**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

We are currently in the midst of a national conversation regarding our law enforcement and justice system. Why are certain crimes, like drug possession, enforced more severely in certain neighborhoods? Why are white collar crimes, that defraud the masses and cause severe economic harm, often treated less severely than petty crime? Drawing on the UUA’s 2021-2022 common read, *Defund Fear - Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment* by Zach Norris, we will explore who our system of justice is protecting and who it is punishing.

**February 20**

**Political Courage**

**Becca Kornet**

These days, political courage seems to be in short supply. Why is it so hard to stand up for what's right? Becca Kornet shares the story of her grandfather's act of political courage in the New York State Assembly in 1970 - what led up to it, the act itself, the aftermath, and the impact on her family.

**February 27**

**Is It Enough?**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

In one of the richest nations on earth, how do we justify rampant homelessness and neglect? How do we live our UU values of love and compassion in a country that allows the poor to languish and suffer? Where and how and why do we feel the need to make a difference? With so many broken systems in our society, when will our personal contributions be enough?



# Religious Exploration

Samantha Decker Nemeth

Coordinator of Religious Education

Hello Families!!

Though Religious Exploration has been remote, we haven't stopped growing and learning. While virtual we are focusing on community building and playing games, sharing our thoughts, and continuing to relate and learn about our Principles while focusing on our new addition of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle.



OWL for grades 8-9 will be taking place Sunday night from 7-9 PM in the vestry. If you have any questions please reach out to John Kornet or Jenn Bartle.

OWL Jr. for grades 5-7 has been postponed and will resume March 20 for the first class. Stay tuned for more info, especially focusing on our first parent/child meeting!

## Ferry Beach Retreat May 13-15



Join us for a weekend retreat to Ferry Beach, along the shores of Saco Maine, May 13-15.

This will be a fun, restorative weekend for all ages. There is so much to do: collect shells along the beautiful sandy beach, play on the playground, sing by the campfire in the wooded grove, read a good book on DeWolfe or Quillen porch, make an art project in the Art Barn, or get a treat from the ice cream shop. We will hold our Sunday worship service in the outdoor chapel among the tall pines.

For more info, go to their website: [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org)

## From the Annual Fund Drive Committee

**"A DREAM YOU DREAM ALONE IS JUST A DREAM.  
A DREAM YOU DREAM TOGETHER IS REALITY."**

**-John Lennon**

**The Annual Fund Drive Committee is Pleased to Announce  
Our 2022-2023 Fund Drive Theme**

### **BUILDING OUR DREAM TOGETHER**



Two years ago we could only dream of being in-person together for worship services, religious exploration, chalice circles, social gatherings on the Meeting House Green, Medfield Day and the Holiday Stroll. Through our love for our faith community, affection for our cherished Meeting House, and with plenty of hard work (Rev. Dave's leadership, our Re-opening Task Force, new air filtration system, Buildings & Grounds Committee's maintenance, etc.) that dream has become reality. The Annual Fund Drive Committee is planning the following events to promote the building of our dream together.

<b>SAVE THESE DATES!</b>		
	<b>TIME/DATE</b>	<b>ANNUAL FUND DRIVE EVENT</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>6:00 PM SATURDAY JANUARY 29</b>	<b>PIZZA/GAME NIGHT VIA ZOOM</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>7:00 PM SATURDAY MARCH 5</b>	<b>SMALL SUPPERS VIA ZOOM</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>10:00 AM SUNDAY MARCH 6</b>	<b>ANNUAL FUND DRIVE SERVICE VIA ZOOM</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>10:00 AM SUNDAY APRIL 10</b>	<b>COMMITMENT SUNDAY SERVICE VIA ZOOM</b>

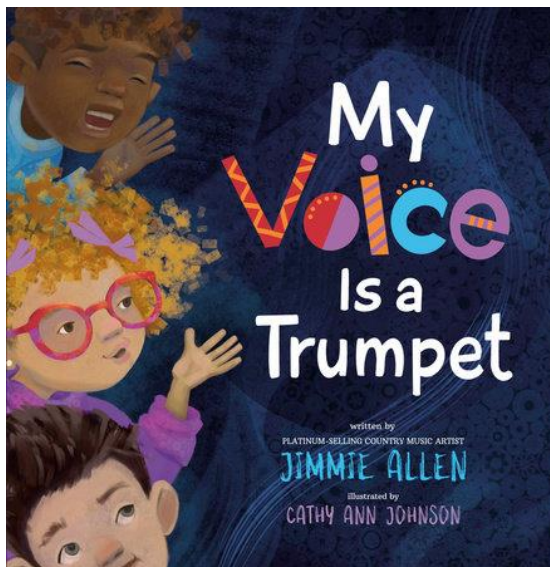
We'll be in touch with you shortly with details for each event.

We are respectfully,

The Annual Fund Drive Committee: Co-Chairs Mary Corthell and Marshall Sugarman, Chris Flaherty, Fritz Fleischman, Duncan Glover, George Lester & Don Rolph

## From the Social Justice Incubator (SJI)

If you missed the intergenerational worship service on Jan. 23 that was planned and led by members of the SJI, please do look for the recording on the [FPUU website](#), "Our Principles in Action." Because of copyright laws, the Time for All Ages was not recorded, but the book that was read can be found in the Medfield Public Library—*My Voice is a Trumpet* by Jimmie Allen, illustrated by Cathy Ann Johnson.



On January 23, the SJI led a service about various types of social justice initiatives. Toward the end of the service, we asked the congregation to type into the chat what all of you are passionate about when it comes to social justice. Here's what we learned!

immigration justice economic justice  
pick up more trash  
transgender rights Braver Angels workshops  
food security election of social justice candidates  
reducing First Parish carbon footprint housing as a right  
equitable policies for disadvantaged groups advocacy for differently abled folks  
relating faith to social justice LGBTQ+  
reproductive healthcare equal access to education  
disparity in healthcare  
extinct animals

# CommUUnity Collaborative



COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE is a Unitarian Universalist platform created/conducted by ministers and staff teams who want to share new programs with their congregations, and beyond. Our course catalogue includes a variety of stimulating programs and workshops to help adults deepen their faith, wrestle with big questions, and nurture their souls.

Upcoming classes include:

## **PARENTING SUPPORT GROUP**, Rev. Dave Egan & Rev. Lynda Sutherland

During this difficult time, we want to reach out to parents and offer an opportunity to share our circumstances, listen to others, and help all of us to navigate these troubled waters. No conclusions, just compassionate listening and support. Finding and connecting to others may be the only way that will get us through. This is a drop-in group. No commitment necessary.

## **JUSTICE DOCUMENTARY SERIES**, Rev. Rali Weaver

Join Rev. Rali Weaver this winter to discuss four social documentaries centered around justice. Participants will watch the film(s) on their own and then join the online discussion every Sunday afternoon in February.

## **COMING OF AGE FOR ADULTS**, Rev. Laurel Grey

Coming of Age is part of our custom as Unitarian Universalists. It's a time when our youth make the transition from childhood into adolescence, taking ownership of their own spiritual lives and role in the congregation. But it's also an experience that so many adults in our congregations never got to have. In this series, participants will engage in a process of articulating our deepest values and becoming acquainted with the spiritual process of self-attunement.

## **FROM FEAR TO ETERNITY**, UU Conversations on End of Life Issues,

Rev. Elizabeth Bukey & Rev. Elizabeth Ide

Join the Reverends Elizabeth Bukey and Elizabeth Ide for a series of online gatherings starting in February. The program will be centered around the following books: "From Here to Eternity (<https://www.norton.com/books/9780393356281>)" by Caitlyn Doughty; "Our Last Best Act (<https://mallorymcduff.com/books>)" by Mallory McDuff; and "Nine Years Under: Coming of Age in an Inner-City Funeral," by Sheri Booker.

To learn more and to register for any of these classes visit: <https://www.commuunitycollaborative.com>

# Monthly Mediation & Reflection

Shirley Riga, Spiritual Director

Member of the Pastoral Care Committee

for further reading is <https://www.conqueringyourfears.com/post/be-there-for-you>

## January 5, 2021 – Be there for you



As a collective consciousness, we stand together. We're in the thick of it now. Covid is knocking on our friend's doors and maybe on our doors. The bleak winter pressing in on our warmth. We are limited in actions and warned with often conflicting messages. Greed and manipulation abound around us and suffering is everywhere. The world feels dark and foreboding and yet here we are in a community of love, supported and included. We buoy each other. We persevere and remain steadfast because we have touched on the truth, the real truth that lies underneath the rubble of the world. Every breath we take we choose to see truth, to feel truth and be truth. Truth abounds in an energy of love.

How can we love the Covid virus? How can we love the political mayhem? How can we love a chronic illness or pain and suffering? We can't love those things. We love humanity who experiences it. We love ourselves. We practice gentle kindness and respect as we weather whatever storm we are facing.

By treating our self with loving respect and kindness, we never go without what we deeply desire, to be cared for, respected and gentled into comfort. We set the example. We speak the comforting words. We respect our needs. We advocate for ourselves by being a loving presence to our self. It all begins there.

Losing my way will happen. Luckily, I know my pathway towards home and recognize the doorway. Fears and worries block my vision and sound convincingly real. I hold my question like a shield and face my fear or worry by asking are you fact or fear?

With this inquiry, I can interrogate each worry and sort out what's real and what's fear. I learned to sort out the facts and the worries through years of practice caring for my daughter. Fears and worries cloud my perception, muddy my direction and most importantly, worry takes away my ability to be present for myself and especially for those I love needing my attention.

I know when I want to share something that is dear to me, it's so important to be listened to by someone who is fully present, not half there fidgeting with something else or multi-tasking. The power of presence is a gift, an honorable gift to give someone you love, to give yourself.

Be there for you. Be there for them. Do the best you can as you weather these storms.



## Green Sanctuary Committee



GREEN  
SANCTUARY  
CONGREGATION

Our next meeting is Feb. 18, 2022 via Zoom, 7pm  
ALL ARE WELCOME! Email [Jeanette Ruyle](mailto:Jeanette.Ruyle) for a  
Zoom link.

### A survey of FPUU windows and their status-- FYI

*NOTE: The following might make it sound like the GSC is getting overly preoccupied with building issues. Perhaps, but we remain committed to how all our actions to be more energy efficient ultimately connect to environmental/climate justice. The following is offered in the spirit of being transparent, just like a new window.*

In the **vestry**, all four large windows in the main room now have clear plastic coverings, i.e., DIY inner storm windows, again. The one in the vestry lobby that is permanently closed has a "permanent" homemade inner storm that needs to be restrengthened now and then. The windows themselves are in varying degrees of disrepair but there was some work done on that by a congregant volunteer during the past year.

One smaller window on the vestry level, hidden behind the North Street entrance and near the "secret" stairwell, needs a storm window, as does the large window in the electric room. Those will be done soon, hopefully as a joint effort between GSC and Building & Grounds.



Upstairs in the **sanctuary**, the very large [opalescent glass](#) windows pose mystery and challenge. They were probably installed during the 1800's and are not original to the building. The glass is intact but the many areas of outside glazing compound holding the glass in have started to peel and fall off. If these windows were all repaired (a huge job), they would still need some kind of storm windows to make them energy efficient.

The small clear windows in the balcony all need some kind of storm window.

**All** of the above windows are double-hung, single pane, and notoriously leaky of air. In the **U House**, all but one of the double-hung windows have exterior storm windows, albeit old ones. A DIY inner storm is now on the stormless one. The condition of the

windows themselves needs examination.

From an energy-environmental-climate action point of view, possible actions include a) storm window installation only and putting off window repair; b) restoration/repair of current windows to make them as tight as possible *plus* installation of storm windows, preferably commercially made storm windows; and c) replacement of all windows with triple-glazed energy efficient windows that fit with the historic look of the building.

## For the sake of yourself and the wider community...

You are encouraged to use [this link](#) to ask key legislators to report several climate justice bills out of committee with a favorable vote before February! Thank [UU Mass Action](#) for this info.

You are encouraged to visit [Sustainable Medfield](#) and the Action Portal, even if you don't live in Medfield! Lots of good information. [FPUU is a member of Sustainable Medfield](#).



## From Building & Grounds

### Monthly Buildings and Grounds Workdays!



In the hope of greater member participation, the B&G Committee is instituting once-a-month workdays.

These will take place on the second Sunday of every month, from 1 pm to 4 pm in the sun, rain, or snow--we'll be indoors in bad weather. Let David Russell know in advance, or just show up! Even an hour of help would be much appreciated!

Call, text, or email David at 617.285.6197 or [director@russelleducation.com](mailto:director@russelleducation.com)

\*The next date will be Sunday the 20th, in order to avoid conflict with the Super Bowl. Thanks!

## Collection for Chaplains on the Way



The COTW breakfast program is about to re-open providing hot coffee, home-cooked meals, and clean bathrooms Monday – Friday 7:30 - 10:30 am. For many folks, this is the only hot meal available. The goal is to continue the breakfast program until Spring 2022.

Here is a current list of most needed items that will help our COTW friends continue to run the program for the next several months:

- Masks
- Paper Napkins
- Hand Sanitizer
- Caffeinated Coffee
- Woolen Socks
- Warm Gloves

The drop-off site will be at 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.

## Dignity Matters



Dignity Matters is a non-profit organization that collects, purchases and supplies feminine hygiene products, bras and underwear to women and girls who are homeless or disadvantaged, in order to help them stay healthy, regain self-confidence, and live with basic dignity. If you would like to donate items, they can be placed in the collection box on the front porch of the U-House. Contact Becca Kornet with any questions.

## Notes from the Church Office



Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. **February 20th**

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

## FPUU Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 1	Staff Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Wednesday, February 2	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Sunday, February 6	Anti-Racism Team Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom OWL 8-9/6:45 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, February 9	Committee on Ministry Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Thursday, February 10	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Sunday, February 13	Chalice Circle/11:30 am/Zoom B&G FPUU Workday/1:00 pm OWL 8-9/6:45 pm/Vestry
Thursday, February 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/Zoom
Friday, February 18	Green Sanctuary Committee/7:00 pm/Zoom
Sunday, February 20	Newsletter Deadline OWL 8-9/6:45 pm/Vestry
Thursday, February 24	RE Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Zoom
Sunday, February 27	OWL 8-9/6:45 pm/Vestry

