

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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Medfield, MA
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www.firstparishmedfield.org



March Newsletter 2022

Ministerial Musings

During this cold and uncertain time we are living in, I invite you to take a moment to pause and reflect on this wonderful poem by Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert.

Life Is Always Unfinished Business

~Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert

In the midst of the whirling day,
In the hectic rush to be doing,
In the frantic pace of life,
Pause here for a moment.

Catch your breath;
Relax your body;
Loosen your grip on life.

Consider that our lives are always unfinished business;
Imagine that the picture of our being is never complete;
Allow your life to be a work in progress.

Do not hurry to mold the masterpiece;
Do not rush to finish the picture;
Do not be impatient to complete the drawing.
From beckoning birth to dawning death we are in process,
And always there is more to be done.

Do not let the incompleteness weigh on your spirit;
Do not despair that imperfection marks your every day;
Do not fear that we are still in the making.

Let us instead be grateful that the world is still to be created;
Let us give thanks that we can be more than we are;
Let us celebrate the power of the incomplete;
For life is always unfinished business.

Blessings,
Rev. Dave

Ferry Beach Retreat Registration Opens March 1



For those who are interested in attending, registration for our Ferry Beach Retreat (May 13-15th) begins **March 1st 2022**. Registration will be done by contacting Ferry Beach directly. Note: the Franklin UU congregation will be joining us as well. Registration will open on March 1st 2022 to both groups. **Room selection is first come first serve.**

To register please email registration@ferrybeach.org (preferred) or call 207-282-4489 x1 to speak to a member of the Ferry Beach Retreat

registration team. To streamline the registration process- if possible, please provide the following: (Preferably by email, but if you call, please provide the same information on voicemail). A Ferry Beach representative will then call you back to complete the registration process.

We hope you are able to join us as we bring our spirit to the sea for renewal and reconnection!

Upcoming Worship Services

March 6

AFD Kickoff

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 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.

March 13

Work Day

Rev. Dave Egan

During this intergenerational worship service, we will talk about what it means to give back to this community that we love. Following the worship service we will have an outdoor pizza lunch, then the Building and Grounds Committee will lead all interested volunteers on repairing, fixing and sprucing up our historic meetinghouse and U House. We invite all to come to the service dressed in comfortable work clothes, as we give our buildings and grounds some much needed love.

March 20

Why I Love FPUU?

David Temple

One of the very first things I loved about FPUU when I first started coming over 30 years ago was that it was so open and participative. Everyone had a chance to speak up...and speak up they did! In those days, the order of service listed "Announcements and sharing of joys and concerns," which resulted in the first 10-12 minutes of that period being taken up with announcements, followed if possible with a few joys and concerns. It was out of control, and eventually the announcements were relegated to printed words. But that early structure gave me a big head start on getting to know the people of FPUU, and thus I always look forward to the "What I Love about FPUU" service.

March 27

The Prophetic Sisterhood

Rev. Dave Egan

Today there is still the conversation about the impact that gender stereotyping is having in considering women for top leadership positions. This conversation about women in leadership is not new, of course, and so on this Sunday we will look back to the Post-Civil war era and reflect on those women who dared to enter Unitarian and Universalist pulpits and assume the mantle of minister. We will explore the lives of these brave female trailblazers and learn what happened to them.

From the Reopening Task Force

Indoor Services to Resume on March 6

The Reopening Task Force is pleased to announce that indoor services will resume at First Parish on Sunday, March 6. The Task Force has been monitoring key data and is confident that conditions now allow for a safe return to in-person gatherings.

Attendees are reminded that all areas of the Meeting House and the U-House now have HEPA-level air filtration and circulation. Please note that all services will continue to be livestreamed on Zoom.

First Parish will continue to follow Covid procedures and protocols tailored to the current conditions as follows:

- Vaccinations are expected, or having had a negative Covid test in the previous 24 hours
- All attendees will be masked, including children during RE classes
- Social distancing will no longer be required, nor will there be a capacity limit in the meeting house; attendees are asked to be respectful of the personal space of others
- There will be no congregational singing
- Children will be welcome in the sanctuary for the beginning of the service as in the past. They will then leave for RE in the U-House
- Little Lights (childcare during the service) cannot be provided because of a staffing shortage. Parents are welcome to bring their children downstairs to the Little Lights corner
- A SOCIAL HOUR (sorry, no coffee or snacks) will take place in the vestry after the service
- Outdoor activities will not require masking

The Task Force will continue to monitor trends and will announce modifications as necessary and appropriate.

We thank you for your patience and look forward to seeing you in the Meeting House!

The First Parish Reopening Task Force

Bill Wians (chair), Martha Castle, Mary Corthell, Leann Harvey, David Maxson, Jen Polinski, Karen Wians, Rev. Dave Egan, Eva Kendrick, Samantha Nemeth Decker

Religious Exploration

Samantha Decker Nemeth

Coordinator of Religious Education

Hello! It's almost spring, and you know that means? New plants, new birds, new animals, AND we are beginning Jr. OWL!

Please come to our Parent & Child Informational Meeting on March 19th, from 10-12 in the U House!

Jr. OWL will officially begin March 20th, at 4 PM in the UHouse and end at 6 PM. Please provide your child with a small snack when we do a break from 4:45-5.

Regular Religious Exploration programming will continue as usual on Sunday mornings (OWL will be in the late afternoon!)

Join us...

On March 20, we will do an RE Family Day (weather dependent) and go on a hike together! More details to come as it gets closer to the date!

April 3, we will do outdoor painting of Kindness Rocks after church from 11:15-12:30. These will be a great addition to gardens all around our community. We will do there on plates on blankets on the green. BYOBlanket - rocks and paint will be provided. Unless you find a really, really cool rock, feel free to bring that!

Let us open our arms and let spring bounce it's way into FPUU RE!



Annual Fund Drive Small Suppers



THE FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD FUND DRIVE COMMITTEE
REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME
FOR A SMALL ZOOM SUPPER

On
SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH
At
7:00 pm

Dress Code: Covid Casual

RSVP to duncanglover@comcast.net

Here is the link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82472976949?pwd=b1NRVTFUR3VZQldkRHRwcWJ5UDloUTo9>

NOTE: Two Families are hosting in-person small suppers.

Rapid Covid Test on the day of will be required.

If you are interested in attending an in-person supper, please contact
duncanglover@comcast.net

"BUILDING OUR DREAM TOGETHER"

2022-203 Fund Drive Theme

Next Pathway to Membership Class on Sunday, March 13



Are you interested in learning a bit about Unitarian Universalism and the history of First Parish? Then we hope you will join us to learn more about who we are, where we come from, and how to become more involved.

We will be holding two Pathways to Membership classes after church on Sunday, February 27, and Sunday March 13, at 11:15am. Both classes will cover the same content, so pick whichever date works best for you. Hope to see you there!

New! Be a part of the Fundraising and Rentals Incubator!

Calling all 'big ideas' people!

As the Executive Board looks for ways to achieve a balanced budget, the need to increase fundraising and rentals of our space and grounds has become clear. In order to coordinate these efforts, the Board is looking to create a Fundraising and Rentals Incubator. Modeled on the Social Justice Incubator, the FRI would gather ideas for projects and events to increase fundraising and rentals, without the responsibility for carrying every idea through to completion. Ideas could come from individual members of the congregation, church staff, other committees, or within the FRI itself. Recognizing that successful fundraising and developing a stable list of renters might appeal to different skill sets and interests, the Board hopes the FRI will allow each member to concentrate on their particular strengths. The FRI would report monthly to the Board.

Please contact Bill Wians (wwians@mac.com) or Jen Bartle (jenbartle@gmail.com) with any questions, or to raise your hand and join the new team!

The Executive Board



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! ***The next date will meet will be Sunday the 13th**

Call, text, or email David at 617.285.6197 or director@russelleducation.com

Photos from Feb 20th

We had much progress at our workday Sunday, Feb 20, raking leaves and moving the flagstones from against the U-House deck over to another area. It was also nice to see some signs of spring - we thought these might be crocuses coming up??

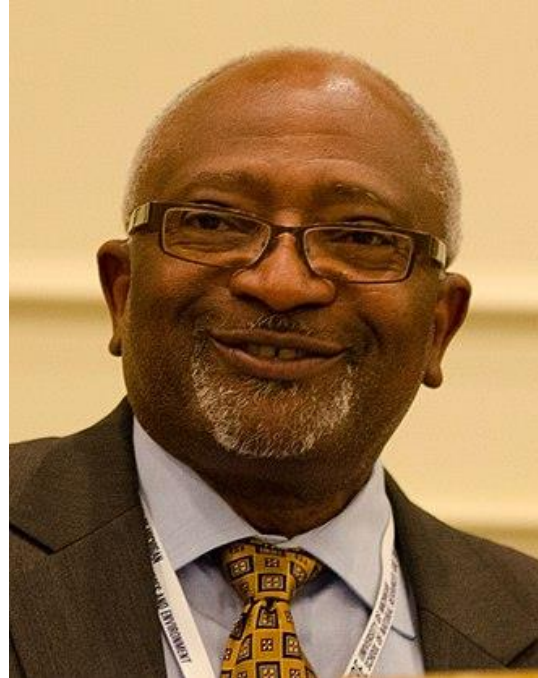
Volunteers were our fearless leader David Russell, Karen and Bill Wians, David Temple and Sara Drumm.



Green Sanctuary Committee



Our next meeting is on
March 11, 2022 via Zoom, 7pm
ALL ARE WELCOME! Email [Jeanette Ruyle](#) for a
Zoom link.



This is Robert D. Bullard,
the person who spoke the words pictured on the left.

He is known as "[the father of environmental justice](#)." Born in Elba, Alabama in 1946, Bullard became a sociologist, educator, activist, advocate, and author. His interest and passion in the intersection of environmentalism and social justice was born in the late 1970's when he gathered data about garbage landfills of Houston, Texas. Blacks were 25% of the city's population, but 100% of the city-owned landfills were located in the middle of black neighborhoods. His studies revealed systematic injustices. He has gone on to campaign against numerous environmental injustices involving pollution, nuclear waste, storm preparation (or lack of), and more, while working with grassroots groups. He was instrumental in the creation of environmental justice policy at the federal level. Currently he is a distinguished professor of urban planning and environmental policy at Texas Southern University in Houston.

"If you're just talking about greenhouse gases and parts per million, you're not seeing the issues around vulnerability and justice."

Monthly Mediation & Reflection

Shirley Riga, Spiritual Director

Member of the Pastoral Care Committee

Tipping Point

I maxed out on adrenalin yesterday
coursing through my veins
Caught up in the day,
focusing too closely on

Must do's
What if's
and feeling so deeply
the pain of the world.

I care so much for everything in this world
I feel so much for everyone in this world
Using my heart to help
Forgetting my limits; my borders.

I lose myself in the fire of life
Engrossed in deep compassion for suffering.
Alarms are sounding and I ignore
Tipping over the edge and still I lean

I consume or be consumed
I jump and then learn to swim
I help and then focus on helping
My tipping point is too far forward

No matter what lessons I walk through
And what learning I glean
I always come back to myself
Accountable to me.

I stopped playing the blame game years ago
Putting down my pointing finger
And holding my heart with acceptance
My choices are my choices

My consequences are my consequences
And I deal with them as they occur
I am not responsible for anyone else
I respond to my needs and uncover my wants

Always without question a problem I perceive
In others is hidden within me.
Always without question what behavior bugs
me is a wound needing healing.

Silence has afforded me the doorway
To communicate with my consequences.
Silence has softened my inner gaze so
I can clearly see all that I am

I no longer wait at my door
with punishment in hand.
I am safe in my own harbor.
I am safe with me.



For further reading: <https://www.conqueringyourfears.com/post/tipping-point>.

Would you like to see a

YARD SALE

happen this Spring?

A lot is yet TBD—
The date? Outside or inside or both?
The weather? The donations? Help?

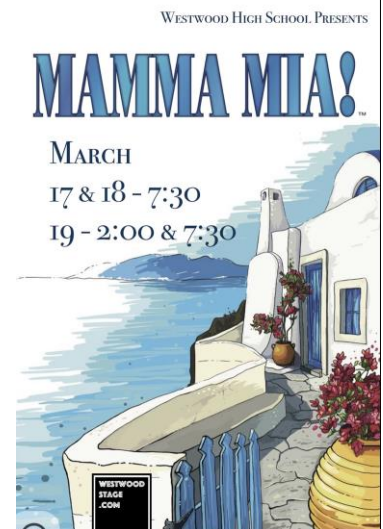
***At this point... just asking...
Are you interested? Have stuff?***

Email the Green Sanctuary Committee via jruyle23@verizon.net



Ticket Information

Many of you have expressed interest in William's upcoming performance in "Mamma Mia." He's playing the character of Harry, one of the three fathers of the bride. We welcome any members who would like to see William perform. We don't know when tickets will be on sale, but we'll keep you posted. - David Russell



Collection for Chaplains on the Way



Thanks to the generosity of many, Chaplains on the Way's limited storage space is currently jam packed with clothing, comforters and blankets.

Hope is found in hearts connected
Caffeinated Coffee, Woolen Socks and Warm Gloves.

Items needed are: Masks, Paper Napkins, Hand Sanitizer,

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. **March 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 Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

FPUU Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 1	Staff Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Wednesday, March 2	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom Annual Pledge Drive Committee Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Saturday, March 5	Small Suppers/7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 6	OWL 8-9/7:00 p.m./Vestry
Tuesday, March 8	Membership Outreach Committee/7:00 pm/Zoom
Wednesday, March 9	Committee on Ministry Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Thursday, March 10	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Friday, March 11	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Sunday, March 13	Pathways to Membership/11:15 a.m./TBD B&G FPUU Workday/1:00 p.m. OWL 8-9/7:00 p.m./Vestry
Thursday, March 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 p.m./Zoom
Saturday, March 19	OWL Jr. Parent/Child Informational Meeting/10:00 am/U-House
Sunday, March 20	Chalice Circle/11:30 am/Sanctuary Newsletter Deadline RE Family Day Hike OWL Jr/4:00 pm/U-House OWL 8-9/7:00 p.m./Vestry
Thursday, March 24	RE Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Zoom
Sunday, March 27	OWL 8-9/6:45 pm/Vestry OWL Jr/4:00 pm/U-Houses

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 13th!