



First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



April Newsletter 2022

Ministerial Musings

My grandpa was a master of small talk. He could strike up a conversation with anyone with comments about the weather, how the crops were doing, where the biggest fish might be found. When we would stop for a few minutes to stretch our legs during road trips, my grandma would be back in the car, anxious to get going, and there my grandpa would be, deep in conversation with a stranger. "Come on, Louie!" she'd yell, obviously annoyed.

Out in rural Iowa, where they were from, this was just part of being friendly. You smiled at folks. You said hello. You commented on the weather. Whenever they would come visit us in New England, they always commented on how folks here seemed cold and standoffish. But that didn't stop my grandpa. He would say "Hi" to the people he passed on the street & chat with shopkeepers and the person sitting next to him on the T. And you know what? They usually responded!

This congregation of ours has developed a reputation for being a friendly place, a place where visitors feel welcome. A lot of us, even those for whom this doesn't come naturally, have figured out that a smile, a hello, and some initial small talk can go a long way in helping folks feel at home.

So the next time you spot someone you haven't seen before, or someone standing alone during social hour, or someone who looks unsure about where to go or what to do, go on over. Say hello. Introduce yourself. Ask if they're new to the congregation. And if it turns out that they've been members for years, that's OK. There's nothing like a good laugh to launch what might become a new friendship.

I'm always hoping that those who walk through our doors in search of a religious home, will discover that our congregation is what they've been looking for. But in order for that to happen they need to find not only meaningful worship, music that stirs their souls, and quality religious education for their children, they also need to feel connected. And that's where all of you come in. Flash a smile. Say hello. But don't feel you have to start with small talk if that's not your style. It's perfectly OK to dive right into the profound! After all, we *are* Unitarian Universalists!

In faith,

Rev. Dave

Historical Documents Task Force

The Board is very pleased to announce that Darline Lewis, Rich Mastronardi and David Temple have agreed to work as the Historical Documents Task Force.



The task force would have two main responsibilities. The draft of the US Constitution in our possession presents the most pressing issue. The task force would arrange for a professional assessment of the document and based on the appraisal send to the board its recommendation for the document's retention and preservation, donation, or sale.

Second, the task force would make a preliminary assessment of what other documents are in the congregation's possession and where they may be located, and recommend to the board how they might be gathered into a central repository and reviewed for further preservation or disposition. The task force would not be responsible for the actual work of gathering the documents, though suggestions as to how this could be accomplished would be welcome. They've already made what is in effect their first recommendation—that First Parish take possession of a museum-quality display case currently at the Medfield Library which the Board chair has approved.

This initiation of this task force is great news and addresses a long-neglected need. We look forward to receiving their recommendations, and thank Darline, Rich and David for their willingness to serve.



Upcoming Services

April 3

Restoring Hope

Rev. Dave Egan

Cornel West says that it's easy to be optimistic when we have a pretty good idea of how things will turn out and when things are going well. Hope is when you see that things are not going well and have the courage to change them. This sermon will focus on the way in which hope sustains in a way that simply being optimistic cannot.

April 10

Commitment Sunday

Rev. Dave Egan

The former UUA Moderator, Denny Davidoff, says, "In the end what really counts is not how much we have but what we have done with it, how many we have helped, how much we have shared. In the end our only permanent possession is that which we have given away." The people of this congregation give so much of their time and talent to keep FPUU flourishing. This is the Sunday when we focus on the "treasure" part of our stewardship, with the culmination of our Annual Fund Drive. A Sunday not to be missed!

April 17

Happy Endings

Rev. Dave Egan

Three of the ancient spring stories begin with laments, with cries of despair: Persephone is captured by Hades and taken to the Underworld; the first-born sons of Egypt all die before the Hebrew people can escape from bondage; Jesus is crucified. And yet all three of these stories have happy endings, for the main characters at least. On this Easter morning, we will explore what these spring stories have to teach us.

April 24

**In it Together, Do it Together:
Responding to Climate Change as a Community**

Green Sanctuary Committee

Most of us know by now what we can and need to do as individuals to act against climate change and reduce our own carbon footprints. Today we take a close look at the idea of strength in community and how we of all ages can do more by joining together. The Green Sanctuary Committee of FPUU is happy to say that Dr. Hilli Passas of the Medfield Energy Committee is our guest speaker. You are invited to wear your Earth, environment, justice, green, and/or peace T-shirt to this service!

Religious Exploration

Samantha Decker Nemeth
Coordinator of Religious Education

Hello!

Religious Education is having a great time learning and exploring.

On Sunday mornings we have been following the program Signs of Our Faith: Being UU Everyday. Here is a short summary of what we are exploring:

"Rev. Peter Morales asks us to think about religion as the practice of being faithful to what you love. In order to do this, you must decide what you love and do your best to live that love faithfully every day. Signs of Our Faith guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarian Universalist love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness.

Children examine how their lives do and can exhibit these traits and values, and come to understand that their faith is a living faith whose histories and teachings are fortifications for living faithfully in a complex world."

Sunday evenings we have two OWL classes for both middle school and high school. See Samantha if you'd like to learn more about these offerings.

In March, we went on our family hike by Hinkley Pond in Medfield!

On April 3rd, in class (recently changed from an after church activity) we will be painting rocks outside on the green! Bring Your Own Favorite Rock!



Annual Fund Drive Save the Date

10:00 AM SUNDAY APRIL 10

COMMITMENT SUNDAY SERVICE
AN IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE THAT WILL ALSO BE STREAMLINED
VIA ZOOM

A DREAM YOU DREAM ALONE
IS JUST A DREAM



A DREAM YOU DREAM TOGETHER
BECOMES A REALITY
(3/25/2022 SMALL SUPPER)

Two years ago we could only dream of being in-person together for small suppers, worship services, religious exploration, chalice circles, social gatherings on the Meeting House Green, Medfield Day and the Holiday Stroll. Through 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 and Grounds Committee's maintenance, etc.) that dream has become a reality.

We look forward to seeing you, either in-person or remotely via Zoom, at our Commitment Sunday service on April 10, 2022.

We are respectfully,

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

Green Sanctuary Committee News



Our next meeting is April 8, 2022 via Zoom,
7pm to plan the Earth Day worship service
ALL ARE WELCOME!
Email [Jeanette Ruyle](#) for a Zoom link.



Three important dates this month—

April 22 – Earth Day! Celebrate in any way you choose; multiple possibilities.



April 24 – Earth Day Worship Service at FPUU, an annual event for all ages. Please come, in-person or on Zoom. The Green Sanctuary Committee is happy to announce we have a guest speaker as part of this engaging service-- Dr. Hilli Passas, Medfield resident, member of the Medfield Energy Committee, and leader of the Town of Medfield Climate Action Plan (TOMCAP). *Everyone is invited to wear an environment/Earth/peace/justice/love T-shirt on this Sunday!*



April 30 – The FPUU Yard Sale returns! See more information on the flyer contained in this newsletter. Donations are needed and welcome (except for TV's, computers, clothing, and large furniture). Drop-off is April 29 only. **Volunteers can sign up here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4eada92ca02-yard>

It's a fundraiser AND it's good for the Earth



From Building & Grounds



Buildings and Grounds Workday Sunday April 10th, 12-4

Our church buildings and grounds need your help to be more beautiful!

Members of B&G can only do so much to keep up with ongoing maintenance. We need help from other members to make progress on spreading loveliness.

Outdoor needs include raking and pruning in advance of spring growth.
Indoor work includes painting in the UHouse and minor carpentry in both buildings.



We'll gladly buy you pizza beforehand!

Please let David Russell know if you can come so that he can have tools and materials ready. 617.285.6197 or director@russelleducation.com.

Notes from the Church Office:

Please remember the following deadlines:



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

Order of Service: Wednesdays by 5:00 pm.

Church Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Anti-Racist Book Discussion Group



Reminder that the anti-racist book discussion group is open to all at First Parish, and we welcome others outside the congregation as well. It doesn't matter if you haven't attended before - we would love to have you join us for our deep and thoughtful conversations.

Our next discussion will take place via Zoom on **Tuesday, April 19th** from 7:30-9:00. Zoom link is below.

If you can't make this discussion but would like to be added to the mailing list to learn about future book discussions, please contact Becca Kornet at becca_kornet@yahoo.com.

We will be discussing "The Souls of Black Folk" by W.E.B. Du Bois.

The Anti-Racist Team: Kay Bennett, Nicole Silvestri Hall, Thea Iberall, Becca Kornet, Samantha Decker Nemeth, Margaret Rolph, Jeanette Ruyle, and Rev Dave Egan

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83411455406?pwd=OHJ5WDF4SEpHOTJMUKRFM014QnlkQTog#success>



FPUU YARD SALE is happening! APRIL 30, 10am – 3pm

Donations will be accepted Friday April 29
Join in the fun by volunteering to set up, sell,
and/or clean up!

Please no clothing, TV's, computers, large furniture

Email the Green Sanctuary Committee via jruyle23@verizon.net



Monthly Mediation & Reflection

Shirley Riga, Spiritual Director

Member of the Pastoral Care Committee

Propeller Blades

My commitment to live in truth has grown stronger over the years. My goal is to align my decisions and



actions with my values to support my wellbeing. I make adjustments when necessary, find inspiration when I need a lift, and avoid propeller blades.

Propeller blades is a concept born from my late wife, the idea being life gives us opportunities and some of them appear to be safe and some not. The decisions I make are as reasonable as I discern them to be, but then there's the decisions that lead nowhere, guaranteed to lower my energy, impact my wellbeing and cause painful emotions. Those are propeller blades.

I've had my share of propeller blades, so much so I now recognize most of them and choose not to engage. Curiosity lures me, and I start wondering how an old flame is doing or a colleague or boss. I make the choice to step over a boundary and venture into the trigger. To read more, see blog <https://www.conqueringyourfears.com/post/propeller-blades>

From the Executive Board



SAVE THE DATE! Annual Meeting on June 5 at 11:30.

We anticipate the meeting will be held in person but with the option of remote participation. Warrant and details of format to follow. Main items will include election of new board members and the Nominations Committee, approval of the FY'23 budget, and any items of business brought forward by the congregation. The Board looks forward to your participation and vote! Please keep in mind that a quorum will be necessary to conduct the congregation's business.



Collection for Chaplains on the Way



Most Needed Items Request

The Chaplains on the Way Breakfast Program is moving outdoors to the Waltham Green this month.

In addition to white paper napkins, hand sanitizer and caffeinated coffee, new or gently used lightweight, folding chairs would be gratefully received.

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.



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.



-----Friday, April 22-----



Save the Date for Family Promise Metrowest's **13th Annual Walk to End Homelessness**

Grab your sneakers, strollers, and leashes and help us raise funds to end family homelessness in our Metrowest community.

This year we are met once again with the challenge of how to safely hold our annual Walk to End Homelessness. We have decided once again to create a decentralized event that encourages registrants to walk with family and friends in their own communities on the weekend of May 13-15. Many of our congregations used this opportunity last year to bring their community together and host a luncheon, cookout, or coffee hour before they took off for their walk to raise awareness and funding for our family's facing homelessness.

We are also making tentative plans to hold an in-person event on the TJX Corp. Campus in Framingham Sunday, May 15, if circumstances allow such gatherings. If so, walkers will be able to walk on the recently opened Cochituate Rail Trail to reach the event. We will have our sponsors, vendor booths and fun activities for people of all ages.

The congregations are the backbone of who we are and how we began. We would love to have a group from each congregation sign up to walk. This is a fun, family day of walking with a purpose. Please consider joining a team with fellow members of your congregations and help us have a record number of walkers the weekend of May 13-15. Visit our [website](#) for more details. We hope to see you at the Day of Celebration on Sunday, May 15 at 2:00pm.

FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 3	OWL Jr/4:00 p.m./U-House OWL Sr/7:00 p.m./Vestry Anti-Racism Team Meeting/7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5	Staff Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Wednesday, April 6	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Friday, April 8	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Sunday, April 10	B&G FPUU Workday/1:00 p.m. OWL Jr/4:00 p.m./U-House OWL Sr/7:00 p.m./Vestry Social Justice Incubator/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Tuesday, April 12	Membership Outreach Committee Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Wednesday, April 13	Committee on Ministry Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Thursday, April 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:00 p.m./Zoom
Friday, April 15	Passover Begins/Good Friday
Sunday, April 17	Easter Sunday Newsletter Deadline
Monday, April 18	Patriot's Day
Tuesday, April 19	Anti-Racism Book Discussion/7:30 p.m./Zoom
Thursday, April 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 p.m./Zoom RE Committee Meeting/7:30 p.m./Zoom
Friday, April 22	Earth Day
Sunday, April 24	OWL Jr/4:00 p.m./U-House OWL Sr/7:00 p.m./Vestry
Saturday, April 30	Earth Day Event & Yard Sale/10:00 – 3:00 p.m. Vestry & Grounds