

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



October Newsletter 2015

From the Minister

Hi First Parish folks,

Happy October!

I wanted to share some good news. This summer, our Music Director, Eva Kendrick, asked the Executive Board for a sabbatical during her tenth year of employment, to begin December 14 and run through the end of April. The executive board approved her request.

Before she begins her sabbatical, Eva is will maintain her usual role, including organizing the musical elements of the Interfaith Thanksgiving

Service at FPUU Medfield this year. She will also prepare a benefit program for NewLife Home Refurnishings on December 12. Of special interest to some of us ☺ she'll also make sure the choir is ready to do the Christmas Eve service, so that our worship service will still run smoothly and sound beautiful.

And in May, she will be back and lead our Music Sunday, as usual.

The executive board has set up a committee to find to a substitute music director for the church during those months, and I'm sure we will find a

talented person as a temporary substitute for Eva. Those of us who are around church during the time Eva teaches her private students will still see her, for that part of her work schedule will not change.

But we will miss Eva's musical talent and leadership in our worship services, and I know will warmly welcome her back when she returns.

A sabbatical can be a very nourishing time, a time to reflect and rest, to think and explore. I know we all wish Eva the very best during her brief respite from the duties of FPUU Medfield Music Director, and look forward to seeing what new and creative energies she has nourished during her time on sabbatical.

Many blessings,
Rev. Meg

Executive Board Notes

Dear Friends:

The new church year has been off to a great start, with well-attended services and a Medfield Day blessed with perfect weather. Thanks to all who helped out!

The main purpose for this message is to invite you to a congregational mission retreat on Sunday, November 1, right after coffee hour, from 12-2. Babysitting and a pizza lunch will be provided. On that day, we would like to share with you the steps we have taken this past year, working our way from vision to mission, and preparing the ground for a process leading to a new strategic plan (a process we were also charged to develop at the Annual Meeting this past June).

The Executive Board held its annual fall retreat on September 20, splendidly facilitated by Mary Corthell (thank you, Mary!). Our goal was to finalize a draft for a mission statement and to begin developing a process that will lead us toward a new strategic plan.

The vision statement developed last year was: **"A loving community committed to spiritual exploration and to a safe and welcoming world."**

The mission statement we crafted on September 20, based on the open discussion meetings last spring, explains what it is we want to be working for: **"We strive to live with deep respect and love for life, to embrace the challenge of human differences, to foster spiritual growth and to work toward a just and sustainable world, beginning with our own and nearby communities."**

Using language suggested by meeting participants last spring, we also developed a further elaboration of the three concepts in the vision statement:

As a loving community looking both inward and outward, we will

- a) Practice seeing through the eyes of others
- b) Give of ourselves
- c) Treat others justly
- d) Acknowledge conflicts and work to resolve them promptly

In our spiritual exploration, we will

- a) Support each other on our intellectual and emotional journey
- b) Explore and practice how to live in accord with our shared values

- c) Seek to give meaning to our individual and collective lives

In our commitment to a safe and welcoming world, we will

- a) Work toward greater inclusiveness in our congregation and communities
- b) Engage for social and environmental justice
- c) Stand together as a sanctuary for independent thought and collective growth

On November 1, we hope to discuss with many of you how our vision and mission (the “what”) can take us to a strategic plan (that lays out the implementation or the “how”). This is your church, and we hope that many of you will join us for this discussion.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the vestry beginning next Sunday.

There is one other item I would like to share with you:

The church’s cash flow is somewhat irregular, as not all pledges are being paid at regular (e.g., monthly) intervals. There is an easy remedy for this (that also saves work): to authorize a monthly online payment through your bank. If you set this up (which takes all of five minutes), the bank will automatically send a check to the church every month, and you never have to bother with writing a check. – I’ll be happy to demonstrate how to do this: if you are interested, please send me an e-mail (ffleischmann@comcast.net), and I’ll set up a date after coffee hour to show how it’s done.

See you in church!
Fritz Fleischmann

Farmers’ Market Thank You!



First Parish would like to thank **Alison Galley and Eve Potts** who have done a wonderful job as Market Managers and **CB Doub** who did a fantastic job with publicity. The Market would not have been possible without the efforts of the three of you. The market ended for the season on September 24th and was a great community and financial success.

Thank you to all the members and friends who have so graciously put signs out on their lawns, volunteers who have helped out - and all of you who have supported the Medfield Farmers’ Market this year.

First Parish UU Medfield presents

Regie Gibson
***Letter and Spirit: The Rants, Chants,
and Coos of a Literary musician***

Night of spoken word and music

Come join Former National Poetry Slam Champion and TedX Boston feature Regie Gibson and The Regie Gibson Project musicians for a night of story, spoken word poetry, music and song. This will be an intelligent, thoughtful, joyously bluesey, jazzy and touching exploration into what it means to live, laugh, and love as a human being.

Saturday October 10th at 7PM

First Parish UU Church

26 North St.

Medfield, MA 02052

508-359-4594

Tickets \$15 Available at the door



"Regie, when you perform, you are supersonic and in the stratosphere, where you can see that the Earth really is a ball, moist, blue-green. Regie, you sing and chant for all of us. Nobody gets left out." - Kurt Vonnegut

"Passionate expression, a melding of many modalities, dialects and traditions, and an exuberant expression of hope."

Poet, songwriter, author, workshop facilitator, and educator Regie Gibson has performed and lectured at schools, universities, theaters and various venues on two continents and in seven countries. Regie and his work appear in the New Line Cinema film *love jones* in which he performed "Hey Nappyhead" with world-renowned percussionist and composer Kahil El Zabar, composer of the score for *The Lion King*. Other people Regie has worked with include Gwendolyn Brooks, Roy Ayers, Mos Def, Mark Strand, Reg E. Gaines, Savion Glover, and John Legend. Among his many awards, Regie was selected one of *Chicago Tribune's Artist of the Year for Excellence* for his poetry. Regie has toured with the Chicago Mask Ensemble, performing dramatic and poetic adaptations of common myths from around the world.

For more information, contact admin@firstparishmedfield.org

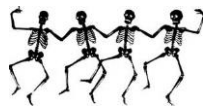
Family Potluck

Saturday, October 24th

Sponsored by the RE Committee



Come to an old fashioned Halloween potluck party in the vestry on Saturday, October 24th, beginning at 6 PM! Families and friends are invited to enjoy a monster mash parade, bobbing for apples, and a few other surprises!



Bring a dish to share, come in costume if you'd like, and RSVP to Cissy at mecha1030@gmail.com.

Youth Programs at First Parish

HOWL

HOWL (our **H**igh school **O**ur **W**hole **L**ives sexuality program) will meet on Sunday, 10/25 at 7pm, facilitated by Chris Flaherty and Cissy Hull-Allen. Snacks will be served! Open to 11-12th grade aged students.

COA

Coming of Age will be offered this year for our 9th and 10th graders. This year long program meets once or twice a month, facilitated by David Maxson and Cissy Hull-Allen. Guided discussions, outings, readings, and mentor meetings lead the participants toward a greater understanding and articulation of their beliefs. The first COA gathering will be on Sunday, 10/18 when we join the Youth Group on a trip to 5Wits Hauntedzok in Foxboro. Captain Nemo is doing strange things to his crew - can we avoid the dangers and return our diving bell to the surface?



Youth Group

First Parish offers a youth group for high school students in area towns. Currently, our young people come from Medfield, Dover, and Sharon. At a recent meeting the youth group voted to use some of the funds raised at Medfield Day for a UUA fundraiser:

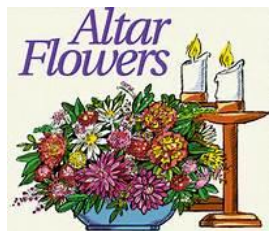


<http://www.faithify.org/projects/owl-sexuality-education-for-200-youth-in-the-philippines/>

In helping to raise funds for OWL training in the Philippines, our youth are acknowledging the importance of sexuality education combined with a belief in our

Unitarian Universalist principles. Our next event will be a combined outing to 5Wits Hauntedzok on Sunday, 10/18. Scares and challenges await!

Altar Flowers



Thank you to Louise Rachin who donated the lovely flowers for the services in September.

Flowers for the Sanctuary are still needed for upcoming Sundays starting in November. Can you help? Flowers donations may be given in honor or memory of a friend or loved one; in commemoration of a special event, or for any other reason you may decide to donate. Please contact Rebecca Stephenson.

Medfield Day Thank You!



Thank you to all
who helped make
Medfield Day a
great time!



Volunteer Opportunity on October 17th from 9-12.



For people coming out of difficult times with limited resources, it is often very difficult to find the household items needed to set up living in an apartment.

The mission of NewLife Home Refurnishing is to distribute "gently used" household goods at no cost to individuals and families who need help to rebuild their lives. Our clients come to us through referrals from social service and government agencies, as well as area clergy.

Our goal is to treat our clients with dignity, providing them with a "shopping" opportunity to furnish their new home with the basic necessities from our inventory.

NewLife relies on the generosity of residents of Medfield and the surrounding towns. We accept most basic furniture and household items in good condition. Those who are downsizing or

redecorating can recycle their items, knowing they will be put to good use and kept out of landfills. Donations are tax deductible.

Information on how you can arrange for a donation can be found at www.newlifehr.org. For a referral, call Rev. Meg at 781-767-7663.

You can volunteer with others from our church on the third Saturday morning of the month. We meet at the warehouse in Walpole.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/S3QU18>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

For more information please contact Duncan Glover.



Among Ourselves



Pat Clark, formerly of this church, died after a stroke on September 28th. While at the church, Pat was chair of the Social Justice committee. She moved to the Cape a little over two years ago.

A memorial service will be held at the Barnstable UU Church on Friday, October 2nd at 11. The church's address is 3300 Main St., Barnstable (corner of 6A and Phinney's Lane).

Committee on Shared Ministry

As with any community or family, sometimes issues and concerns arise at First Parish. This is normal. The important thing is how we deal with these issues. The purpose of the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) is to act as an impartial group, fostering a healthy and supportive environment through direct, open communication. Many, if not most, UU churches have Committees on Ministry.

FPUU members and friends are encouraged to contact any COSM member if they have concerns about the minister or ministries/committees in the church. The COSM member will listen non-judgmentally, make observations, and encourage direct communication with the involved parties. The COSM cannot be the messenger but will accompany anyone if additional support is required. In lieu of the ideal direct communication, active listening from a COSM member can prove helpful. Please don't let concerns fester or snowball. Contact anyone on the COSM. It's all part of being a member of our church family.

As outlined in the charter, the COSM is also responsible for assisting ministries/committees in a supportive, self-assessment process. The committee will select two ministries each year for review on a rotating basis starting this fall.

The COSM looks forward to deepening our relationships with all FPUU members and friends in the upcoming year. Please contact anyone on the committee with questions or concerns.

Terry Ballantyne-Ballard (Chair): s.terry.ballantyne@comcast.net, 617-640-7647

Kay Bennett kay8941@gmail.com, 617-852-7613

Arnold Kalmbach: fkalmbach@comcast.net, 508 376 2887

David Temple: davidftemple@yahoo.com, 508-359-2915

Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee was out in full force at Medfield Day. Anti-idling flyers were handed out at our bake sale table and also at our cosponsoring churches and organizations – Medfield Green, Church of the Advent, UCC Medfield, and Medfield Board of Health. Even the Medfield police took some. We were able to bring the First Baptist Church and St. Edward the Confessor Church on board. So many people said they were glad to be informed of the law.

In other news, FPUU will be joining 36 other religious and environmental organizations in sponsoring and supporting **Answering the Call: An Interfaith Gathering for Climate Action**. The goal is to share Pope Francis' powerful message on environmental responsibility and caring for "our common home" -- and help build an interfaith movement to act on climate change in Massachusetts. Together we will raise our voices as unified people of faith and seize the moment for concrete, communal action to safeguard our planet. This event will be held on Monday, October 12, 7-9pm at Temple Beth Elohim, 10 Bethel Road, Wellesley. Please consider attending this important event. For more information and to RSVP or to volunteer, go to www.tbewellesley/climate.

Notes from the Church Office:



Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month.

Order of Service: Wednesdays by 5:00 pm.

Church Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00-2:00

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange



There are many ways to support First Parish - becoming a member is one, volunteering is another. But you can also help by buying things through Amazon.com or by getting your coffees, teas, and chocolates through Equal Exchange. Getting the things that you would ordinarily order anyway, but using the links available on our website will let you do your part in supporting the work of this congregation, helping our social action agenda, and preserving our historic Meeting House. Go to our website www.firstparishmedfield.org and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!



The Medfield Food Cupboard has requested the following from our church for the month of October:



Chili
Beef Stew
Canned
Chicken/Meat
Pasta Sauce

Juice - boxes and jugs
Salty/Sweet Snacks
Kid friendly Cereal
Jelly/Jam
Canned Tomatoes
4 roll packs of Toilet Paper

Please double check your food items to ensure that they are undented, unopened, and unexpired. Thanks for your efforts. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.



FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, October 5	Medfield Historical Society Meeting/Vestry/6:30 pm
Tuesday, October 6	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/U-House/7:15 pm
Thursday, October 8	Worship & Music Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Saturday, October 10	Poetry Slam with Regie Gibson/Vestry
Sunday, October 11	Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House
Monday, October 12	Columbus Day/Office Closed
Tuesday, October 13	Brown Bag Lunch/12:00 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, October 15	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, October 17	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day/Walpole
Sunday, October 18	Bibel/Ruyle Vow Renewal Coming of Age/HOWL Field Trip to 5Wits Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, October 20	COSM/7:00 pm/Minister's Office
Sunday, October 25	HOWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, November 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends Congregational Retreat