

# *First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield*

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

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



## **February Newsletter 2023**

### **Ministerial Musings**

Love is our ministry theme for February. As I begin to contemplate this theme, I am immediately drawn to the proposed changes to Article II in the Unitarian Universalist Association's bylaws. (Article II is the section of the UUA's bylaws where we find the seven UU principles and the 6 sources of our UU living tradition.) This is entirely in keeping with our ministry theme, since the proposed new Article II places love at the center of our faith.

Here's an excerpt from the proposal: "Love is the enduring force that holds us together. As Unitarian Universalists in religious community, we covenant,

congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist each other in engaging our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom and reason, hope and courage, building on the foundation of love. Love inspires and powers the passion with which we embody our values."

I say "YES!" I say "AMEN!"

Of course, assuming our General Assembly accepts the proposed changes (being voted on in 2023 and 2024), there is much about the current Article II that I will miss. I will miss the language of the seven principles, though I feel confident that the

new “statement of values” is an excellent replacement. I will likely miss the language of the six sources more. I have always loved the way we name a multiplicity of specific sources for our faith—awe and wonder, prophetic words and deeds, wisdom from the world’s religions, Jewish and Christian teachings, Humanist teachings, Earth-centered teachings. The new language of “inspirations” is fine, but it isn’t nearly as specific. We haven’t lost the concept of multiple, specific sources, we just won’t be naming them in the new Article II.

I say YES to the proposed changes precisely because they put love at the center of our faith. I’m mindful that the seven UU principles make no mention of love. That absence has always created dissonance for me. The principles are excellent expressions of the modern, liberal religious identity and worldview. But for me, the primary purpose of our Unitarian Universalist faith—indeed, the purpose of any faith—is to help people:

- To feel love in their hearts (for other people, for creatures, for the Earth, for divinity)
- To feel loved by a community of peers, i.e., a church, a temple, a mosque, etc.
- To manifest love in the world as justice, compassion and equity.

There are many ways to achieve this purpose of experiencing love and putting love into action. I believe our congregation, and Unitarian Universalism in general, have been pursuing this purpose all throughout our history. And I am excited that we are finally naming love as the central value of our faith. I invite you to explore the work of the Article II Study Commission at the UUA website:

[www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission](http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission)

With love,

Rev. Dave

## Ferry Beach Retreat May 19-21



Join us for a weekend retreat to Ferry Beach, along the shores of Saco Maine. 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, or read a good book on DeWolfe or Quillen porch. We will hold our Sunday worship service in the outdoor chapel among the tall pines.

For those who are interested in attending, registration for our Ferry Beach Retreat begins on **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 to both groups. **Room selection is first come first serve.**

## Lodging and meal plan cost for our Ferry Beach Retreat Weekend (including breakfast, lunch, dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday)

* First Adult 18 and over Dorm/Lodging/ 4 Meal Plan	\$220 each
*Additional Adult staying in room/4 meal plan	\$60 each
* Additional Youth 9-17 staying in room/4 meal plan	\$50 each
*Children (8 and under free with 1 adult meal plan)	Free
Total Payment =	\$

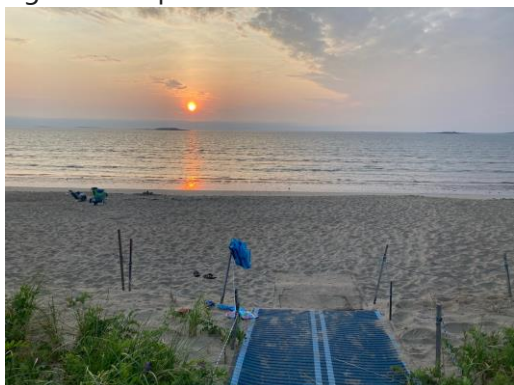


\* Cabins & Cottages are available on site for additional cost. Camping is also an option in the Grove. Contact Ferry Beach Registration for details.



To register please email [registration@ferrybeach.org](mailto: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:

- First and Last Name / **calling with FPUU Medfield weekend Retreat**
- Best phone number to reach to return a call
- Total number of guests / their names & ages
- Room preference (For room details go to: [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org) >Click Arrow on top left for drop down choices> Select Lodging > Quillen/Roland/Underwood "View Floor Plan") Please verify if your room has a full-size bed or twin bunk beds since it is BYO linens. *Note: Underwood 1<sup>st</sup> floor is handicapped accessible.*
- A Ferry Beach representative will then call you back to complete the registration process.



### Additional Information:

There will be no formal programming at the beach, but individuals are welcome to create some activities on their own once they get to the beach. Ferry Beach Retreat & Conference Center will follow the Maine COVID guidelines.

renewal and reconnection!

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

## Upcoming Worship Services

**February 5**

**Love at the Center**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

This Sunday we will explore the proposed changes to Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association's bylaws. In keeping with our February ministry theme of love, what does it mean to truly place love at the center of our faith? How might such placement change our lives?

**February 12**

**Love Thyself**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

Rupi Kaur says, "How you love yourself is how you teach others to love you". During this intergenerational service we will talk about the unconditional "agape" love that is at the center of our beings. For if we are to more fully love our partners, friends, and family, we must begin with loving ourselves.

**February 19**

**Poetry Sunday**

**Thea Iberall**

Poetry Sunday,  
an annual tradition,  
spirit nourishing.

Join us for a soulful and thought-provoking service filled with poetry and music.

**February 26**

**The Preacher of Universal Love**

**Rev. Dave Egan**

The poet Charles Olson says "These days/ Whatever you have to say, leave/ the roots on, let them dangle/ And the dirt/ Just to make clear/ Where they came from." On this Sunday we'll explore some of our own religious roots and hear the words of our Universalist ancestor, the Reverend Hosea Ballou.

## Notes from the Church Office



Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. **February 19th**

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



# Religious Exploration

Jennifer Goodman

Coordinator of Religious Education

Written Jan 23

We are in the midst of our January theme, Finding Our Center. Where is our center? What power does it have? What does it feel like to connect with it? What does it feel like to be off-center? We made Chinese lanterns with New Year's resolutions. We looked at the stars within the center of apples, meditated on candle flame as an outer expression of our heart's flame, and created beeswax icons representing our core selves. Who knows what fun we'll have next week as January unfolds? Stay tuned...



Our Religious Exploration theme in February will be Love. We will explore love for ourselves, love for community, family, and friends, how we express our love, how we cultivate love, and what we really love. I hope your children will join us!



## Neighboring Faiths

The Neighboring Faiths program had a great fall and early winter, during which we:

- Learned about Buddhism and visited the Zen Buddhist Center in Cambridge, where we learned about what it's like to live there and practice Buddhism on a daily basis, meditated and played some instruments used in rituals, and enjoyed delicious treats with some of the residents.
- Learned about earth-based/pagan traditions and attended a Wiccan Yule ceremony at the Modern Mystery School in Waltham.
- Learned about Islam.

Coming up in February, we will:

- Visit the Islamic Center of Boston mosque in Wayland
- Learn about Judaism (a visit to Temple Beth David in Westwood is being organized but has not been set yet).

After that, we plan to:

- Learn about Jainism and hopefully visit the Jain Center in Norwood.
- Learn about Quakerism and hopefully arrange a visit to a Quaker Friends meeting.
- Learn about Native American traditions and possibly have a food-centered gathering with a Native American chef.

Our small but mighty class of young people continues to impress us with their curiosity, open-mindedness, and eagerness to learn. It has been a great joy working with them so far!

Becca Kornet and Chris Conley



## Electric Charging at FPUU



First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield now has level 2 electric car charging capability.

As a first step in supporting electric cars by the church, a 220 volt outlet has been installed next to the door to the vestry. A 220 volt level 2 electric car charger with J1722 adapter is presently stored inside the broom closet in the vestry. Plug the charger into the outlet and hang the charger using the rope from the outlet while in use.

Please replace the charger in the broom closet when finished.

This is available for anyone in the church community to use.

This installation has been reviewed with the Medfield Fire Department, the church insurance company and the Medfield electrical inspector.

Based on conversations with the Medfield Fire Department, yellow fire lane lines will be painted on the pavement this spring. The fire lane will not interfere with the charging location.

This charging capacity was made possible by a donation to the congregation.

We hope that people will take advantage of this new capability.



*The car charger in use by Rev. David Egan!*

# **ANNUAL FUND DRIVE KICKOFF SO WHO'S IN FOR GAME NIGHT???**



**WHEN: SATURDAY MARCH 4 FROM 6:00 TO 9:00 PM**

**WHERE: FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD VESTRY  
PLAYING CARDS & SMALL SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED  
BYOB  
(BRING YOUR OWN BOARD GAMES, BEER & BROOD)**

**SUGGESTED DONATION: \$5/PERSON \$10/FAMILY**

**RSVP TO [duncanglover@comcast.net](mailto:duncanglover@comcast.net) or 857-939-0769  
BY SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25**

**“Resilience Through Commitment” Annual Fund Drive 2022-2023**



**The Annual Fund Drive Committee respectfully requests that attendees take a COVID test with negative results on the event day**



## **Unitarian Universalist Association Article II Study Commission**

### **Report to the Board of Trustees with Recommended Revisions to Article II**

The Article II Study Commission has completed its two year study. The attached report, linked below, has been submitted to the Board of Trustees with the recommend revisions.

[Report to the UUA Board of Trustees from the Article II Study Commission \(PDF\)](#)

Register to attend the January 20th & 21st Board Meeting

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7582412345>

## Green Sanctuary



### Green Sanctuary Committee News

Our next meeting is Feb. 3, 2023 at 7pm via Zoom. All are welcome! Email [Jeanette Ruyle](mailto:Jeanette.Ruyle@fpuu.org) for link and more info.



#### **Joint announcement involving the GSC, Building & Grounds, and the Exec Board**

A new task force has been formed at the request of the Board to address urgent meetinghouse building and energy efficiency needs. The Board representatives and conveners are Martha Holt Castle and Jeanette Ruyle. Other participants: Fritz Fleischmann, David Maxson, and Don Rolph. The focus for now is on windows and heating systems. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Jeanette or Martha. We have met once already.

#### **New EV charging ability at FPUU**

Thank you, Don Rolph, for all your work in having this happen! See elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

#### **Medfield CLIMATE WEEK coming this spring**

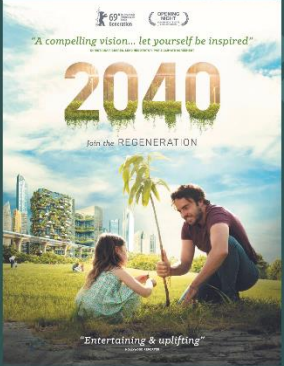
Medfield Environment Action (MEA) and Sustainable Medfield are in the process of planning a week of events all related to addressing climate change and our environment, April 29 – May 6. Note: GSC, on behalf of FPUU, is a participant in [Sustainable Medfield](#), along with many other community organizations. More news to come...

### **"2040" the movie**

Medfield Environment Action is hosting 2 free screenings of the documentary ["2040."](#) This movie offers new hope for the climate crisis conversation. Respective dates and locations are Jan. 31 at 7pm at the United Church of Christ of Medfield, and Feb. 5 at 1pm at the Medfield library. Free and open to all. Bring a friend!

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/MedfieldMovieEvent>

A reminder...



MEDFIELD ENVIRONMENT ACTION | TOGETHER FILMS

# Movie Night

## Two free screenings of 2040

Damon Gameau's visionary film brings a different story to the climate crisis conversation

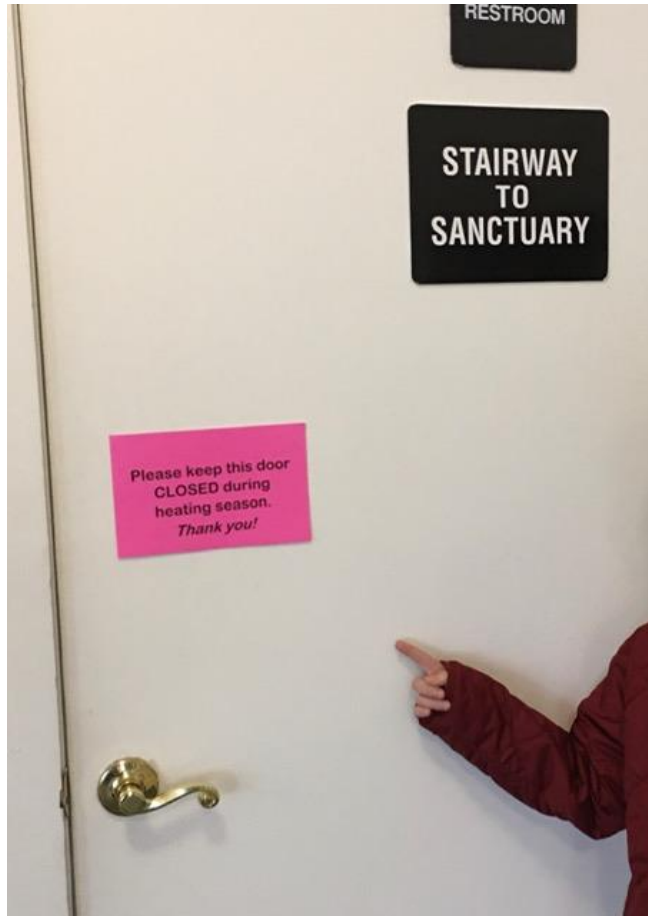
**Tuesday, January 31**  
7pm  
UCC Church  
496 Main St.

**Sunday, February 5**  
1pm  
Medfield Library  
468 Main st.

Save your spot/get updates!  
<https://tinyurl.com/MedfieldMovieEvent>

MEA  
Medfield • Environment • Action

Sustainable  
MEDFIELD  
Local • Global • Inspiring



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## Monthly Mediation & Reflection

Shirley Riga, Spiritual Director

Member of the Pastoral Care Committee

Dear Ego,

I know there are things you want. I know you have opinions and beliefs. I know you want to be in charge. I know you always have safety in mind. I know you remember everything that has happened. I know you feel hurt and pain and never want to feel those emotions again. I know you believe what is right and wrong. I know you want your way.

I appreciate your help in taking care of me and everything I want in life. I am grateful for your alertness and the wisdom you have gleaned from every experience. I know you feel frustrated at times when I don't cooperate with your wishes. I know you are scared. I am grateful for your strength and perseverance. I am grateful for your will.

Let me introduce myself. I am the spirit that inhabits the same vessel with you. I am a partner



that uses imagination to dream beyond the walls of safety. I am connected with Soul, the great I



Am, the silent partner in this human life that is the forever engine. The great I am is the keeper of the blueprint.

Your job in this vessel has helped navigate us through human time. You are outstanding in your accomplishments and your courage is admired.

Times are changing. Evolution is happening and integration is called for. Changes feel threatening. That is what is expected. As ego, you have built your walls on conditioned existence. A great change is taking place that requires full management of your skills. It is time to integrate your mastery. Integration allows us to go beyond the limiting walls of an old paradigm and discover so much more. Integration means giving up control. Integration is cooperation. Together there is so much more to see and it requires you to let go and soar beyond your fear.

It feels like death. It smells like the end. It is neither. It is a "cosmic reset" of all aspects of your nature and it is at hand. Integration is predestined and can't be controlled. There is no turning back or hunkering down to ignore the inevitable. It is in the blueprint and it is at hand.

This evolution is happening across the globe. All humans are transforming through this evolutionary process. These changes vary depending on human will, levels of fear, and forces of resistance. The atmosphere of humanity is breathing a new air.

As the breaking down of an old paradigm continues, I will not abandon you. The theories of cause and effect do not apply. Reward and punishment are part of the old paradigm. Integration does not make sense to the human mind grasping for logic and reason. As spirit, I see beyond these limiting walls and I ask you stay steadfast and present as we maneuver through the chaos and fear together. We hold wisdom in our being. We are in this together.

Life will be different, better on every level than you can ever imagine. It requires you letting go of control first. How else will you ever know the truth?

Allow this prayer to ease your grip on life. Allow this prayer to blend with your beliefs and take up space in your locked walls. Allow this prayer to soften your rules.

My love holds you. I honor you. I appreciate you. Thank you for joining me on this journey. Thank you for letting go. One step at a time. One day at a time. One breath at a time.

Our Inner Wisdom Voices by Don Iannone

Find your inner wisdom voice—  
There lies your personal truth.  
Listen past your fears—  
They drown out what is true for you.  
Look beyond your anger—  
Which often is buried under your fear.  
Set aside your desires and wants, and  
listen to what your inner wisdom voice says  
about what you need to become whole and heal.

## Community Conversations



The UU Urban Ministry will hold a virtual Community Conversation on Tuesday, February 21 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

The topic is - Education: Do Access and Affordability Level the Playing Field? with Jackie Jenkins-Scott

Jackie Jenkins-Scott is the interim president of Roxbury Community College. She is the founder and president of JJS Advising, which specializes in

leadership development and organizational strategy.

The event is sponsored by First Parish UU Lexington and Follen Church

You can join this virtual event at [www.uuum.org/attend](http://www.uuum.org/attend).

I am a delegate to the UU Urban Ministry; feel free to contact me - [margaretrolph@gmail.com](mailto:margaretrolph@gmail.com) - with questions or interest in their many programs.

Margaret Rolph

## Chaplains on the Way Most Needed Items Request



The following items would be gratefully received by the unhoused community of Waltham: \$5.00 Dunkin Donuts Gift Certificates, Cans of caffeinated coffee for the winter breakfast program, Men's sweatpants & hooded sweatshirts, sizes large & extra large, Winter hats & gloves, sizes medium – extra large, Warm socks, Long underwear, sizes large & extra large, Warm blankets, Sleeping bags, Masks and Hand warmers.

If you would like to donate items, they can be placed in the donation box in the Vestry. Your generous, ongoing support for Chaplains on the Way is greatly appreciated. Contact Louise Rachin at 617-429-7319 or [lrachin@comcast.net](mailto:lrachin@comcast.net) with any questions.

## 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.

## Amazon Discontinuing Charitable Support Program through Amazon.com by February 20

Dear charitable organization,



*In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. We were excited about the potential for the program and the impact it could have for many charitable organizations. We want to thank you for your partnership during all these years.*

*After almost a decade of running AmazonSmile, we learned that with so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.*

*Over the past few years, we've seen that Amazon can have a more significant and lasting impact if we invest in specific areas and focus our philanthropic efforts in the communities where our employees live and work. We've started to see the benefits of a more focused approach with our investments in programs like*

*Amazon Future Engineer and our \$2 billion investment in building affordable housing in our hometown communities through the Amazon Housing Equity Fund—and we will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change.*

*We are writing to let you know that we have made plans to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. Until this date, customer purchases made via AmazonSmile will continue to accrue funds for your charity as normal. To help nonprofits like you plan ahead, we will also provide you with a one-time payment equivalent to three months of payments based on what you accrued in 2022 through this program. The timing of this final payment will be approximately 60 to 90 days after February 20, 2023. We hope that this will help minimize the impact that this decision might have. You will be able to continue asking for the support from Amazon customers in other ways, like creating your product lists. We will keep supporting thousands of charities across the U.S. in many ways, and focus on the areas we believe can help create an even greater impact. Our long-term commitment to our communities remains the same: We are determined to help create a better world for our customers, our employees, and the communities we serve across the country.*

*Thank you, AmazonSmile Team*

## FPUU Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 2	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Friday, February 3	Green Sanctuary Committee/7:00 pm/Zoom
Saturday, February 5	Small Suppers
Sunday, February 5	UU Bible Study/11:30 am/U-House SJL/Art Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Monday, February 6	Medfield Historical Society Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestru
Wednesday, February 8	Committee on Ministry Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Thursday, February 9	Staff Meeting/11:00 am/Zoom Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Zoom
Saturday, February 11	Small Suppers
Sunday, February 13	Men's Group/11:30 am/U-House
Wednesday, February 15	Membership Outreach Committee/7:00 pm/Zoom
Thursday, February 16	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/Zoom
Sunday, February 19	Newsletter Deadline Chalice Circle/11:30 am/U-House
Tuesday, February 21	RE Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Zoom
Thursday, February 23	Building & Grounds Committee/7:00 pm/Zoom

