

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



May/June 2026 Newsletter

Dave Egan, Minister
Ministerial Musings

Each summer my family spends a week at the UU Retreat Center in Saco Maine, Ferry Beach, a place I have visited since I was two years old. During the past several years, many of you have also experienced Ferry Beach as well during our May retreat.

To give you a little history of the place, the wooded grove at Ferry Beach is where the Universalist preacher Dr. Quillen Shin led the 20th Annual Meeting of Universalists on August 1st, 1901. Over four hundred people attended the meeting, making it the largest gathering of the Universalist Annual Meeting up to that point. With so many folks in attendance, they needed to find hotels down the road in Ocean Park, and further away in Kennebunk, and even Portland.

In the following years, the Universalists took steps to purchase Ferry Beach Park from the Boston & Maine Railroad, so that they could have a permanent residence along the beautiful sandy shores of Saco, Maine. In 1904, Quillen Shin and his fellow Universalists were successful in the purchase of the land.... this magical place where many of us will visit in a few weeks.

One of my favorite things to do at Ferry Beach is to wake up really early, before sunrise, and go for a long walk on the seven mile long beach. There is something magical about having the waves lap at my feet, as I stroll along the shore, watching the gulls out foraging for their breakfast. Perhaps some of you have experienced this as well.

Each summer, during these early morning walks I eagerly look for a sand dollar. I remember as a child, sand dollars were plentiful along these shores. But lately, they have been nearly impossible to find. Even so, I keep hunting.

Well last summer, during another long walk at low tide, I had a realization. Maybe I was looking for something that I would never find. Why was I so determined to find this elusive sand dollar? Was it simply a way to bring back a piece of my childhood, when my friends and I would come back with dozens of sand dollar souvenirs? Why do I search for what was, instead of what is?

I realized that perhaps I was living in the past, wanting the world to be the way it used to be, instead of accepting the world for the way it is. Sure, the ecology of this beach has changed over the years, but such is life. Perhaps instead of lamenting the loss of the sand dollars, I should be appreciating the abundance of all of the clam shells, the periwinkles and the mussels.

For indeed, if we take the time to be grateful for what *is*, rather than grieve what *was*, perhaps our hearts will be a little bit fuller, a little bit more open to the majesty of our beautiful and precious world.

Peace,
Rev. Dave

Notes from the Church Office:



Please remember the following deadlines:

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

Upcoming Services

May 3

Transitions Are Never Easy

Rev Dave Egan

Our lives are always in transition. Even if we want things to remain the same, change is inevitable. Someday our children will leave our homes, our friends will move away, our jobs will change, our relationships will end, and those we love will die. This Sunday we will explore how to say goodbye to one chapter of our lives, so that we can move on to the next.

May 10

Coming of Age

Rev. Dave Egan

During this intergenerational service, we will hear from our teenagers and their mentors who have been part of our Coming of Age program. This year-long program has helped our youth learn more about Unitarian Universalism and how to articulate their own beliefs. Come hear them share their statements of personal belief and what our faith means to them.

May 17

Worship at Ferry Beach

**Rev. Dave Egan
& Rev. Bev Waring**

Join us for this shared worship service with the First Universalist Society of Franklin, where we will be on retreat at Ferry Beach, in Saco Maine. During this multi-generational, outdoor service, there will be time for personal sharing, reflecting, and of course lots of singing.

May 24

Music Sunday

Worship & Music Committee

On this Sunday, our fabulous Music Director Eva Kendrick and our Worship & Music Committee will offer a worship service filled with the power of song. During this Music Sunday, we will hear from our First Parish Choir, and other singers and musicians as well. We hope you will join us as we share the gift of music together.

May 31

Flower Communion Sunday

Rev. Dave Egan

During this worship service, we celebrate the abundance and beauty of the season by bringing flowers gathered from gardens or roadsides to share with others in the congregation. In addition, we will welcome new members to our congregation. Please bring some flowers from your garden to share with the congregation.

June 7

Pride Sunday

Rev. Dave Egan

As we celebrate Pride Month, come join us for this service where we honor LGBTQIA+ folks. During this service, we will hear testimonials from folks showing pride in their gender identity, gender expression, and sexuality. For regardless of who love or how you identify, this is a congregation that welcomes all of who you are.

June 14

Overflowing with Gratitude

Rev. Dave Egan

On this the last regular service of the church year, we will thank everyone who helped us get to where we are today at FPUU and look forward to what comes next. We will show our gratitude for all of the staff, committee chairs, and executive board members who have shown such strong leadership and commitment throughout the year.

Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2026, from 11:30 am - 1 pm in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

Members are asked to note the dates of upcoming Parish meetings. A quorum is required to conduct business.

Update on Minister Search from the Executive Board

The Board has begun the process to find a new minister. As explained in an earlier email, the "UUA now exclusively recommends the contract ministry process for small [fewer than 125 members] congregations".

Because First Parish has been running yearly deficits and has recently lost significant rental income from OFI, the Board recommends that First Parish hire a part-time contract minister for next year. There is much more flexibility with this model compared to the settled/called ministry model that we have used in the past.

However, the timing for hiring a minister for this September is very tight. We are near the end of the latest cycle with many ministers already committed to new churches. As a result, the Board needs to act very quickly to submit First Parish into the pool.

In the past five days, we have created a detailed online profile and will submit it to the UUA early this week. Ministers looking for positions can then review our material and indicate interest. If that happens, our search team will review the minister's profile, and if interested, schedule an online interview.

As recommended by the UUA, the search team is made up of a mix of Board members (Martha Castle, Jeanette Ruyle, and Kay Bennett) and non-Board members (Tiane Jennings, John Kornet and Rebecca Stephenson). The Board will make the final hiring decision, as it would with other staff.

16 members attended a listening circle on Sunday after worship and shared very helpful ideas for how we can proceed with a part-time minister. There is positive energy for how we will deal with this change. The Board will continue to keep you informed of developments in the search process and look forward to your input.

We encourage you to contact Martha Castle, Board Chair at marthaholt@gmail.com, Jeanette Ruyle, Vice-chair at jruyle23@verizon.net or Kay Bennett, Clerk at kay8941@gmail.com with any questions or ideas.



From our Coordinator of Religious Exploration

Kate Ciavanno



May/June Newsletter 2026



It's sad to think this will be the last newsletter until next year!

We have had such an amazing year with our movie nights and other adventures. We learned a lot about taking care of others and ourselves, as well as about being an activist.

We at RE want to thank everyone who journeyed with us this year, be it volunteer, attendee, etc.

For the rest of the year, we will be continuing to work on Generosity, Equity, Justice, etc. with books about people who seem different from us, activism around the world, and more! I am so excited to continue learning and growing with you all next year! All the students have been exceptionally kind and smart and have asked good questions and had great answers when it comes to our sometimes difficult topics!

Thank you for letting me share in these experiences with your children. This year has been a blast and I can't wait to see you all next year as well!

Yours,
Kate Ciavarra



FIRST PARISH BOARD GAME NIGHT!

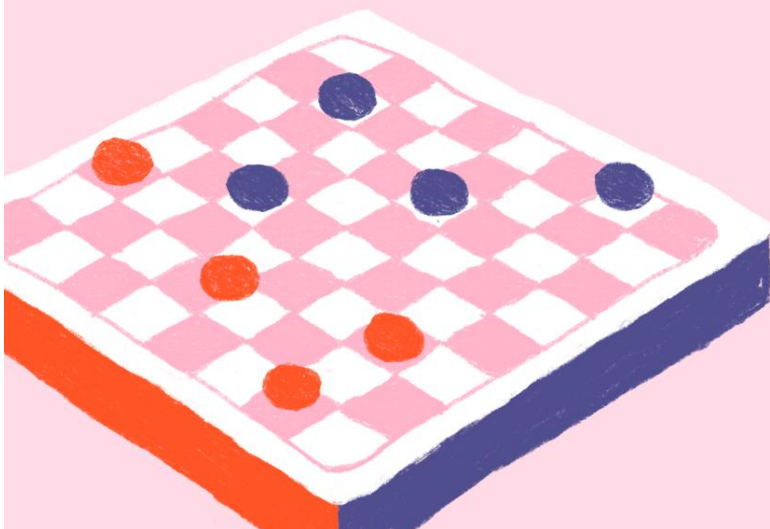


HOSTED BY RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

**SATURDAY, MAY
23RD
6:30 PM**



**THERE WILL BE
SNACKS, DRINKS, AND
PIZZA!**



**BRING YOUR OWN GAMES
TO SHARE!**

Coming of Age

We hope you will join us on Sunday, May 10th, for the culmination of our Coming of Age program.



This year's theme, "Know Thyself," was inspired by the inscription "Gnothi Seauton." Throughout the program, we have explored the questions of WHO we are, and WHAT we are by discussing faith, death, UU values, and the personal meaning of coming of age.

Working with mentors from our congregation, we discussed the challenges of being independent thinkers in a dogmatic world. We reflected on how our beliefs remain flexible as we grow through life experiences and constant learning. We also enjoyed lighter moments, including debates over potato chip preferences and plain or peanut M&Ms.

Our young people served the church community by organizing the HUUGs project (Hearty UU Greetings) for our college students. Additionally, the group watched "Dirty Dancing" and "Stand By Me," and visited the MFA to explore religious depictions in art.

Special thanks to our mentors—Becca Kornet, Glen D'Abate, and Louise Rachin—for their dedicated time with Finn, Tobin, and Avery.

Bill Wians & Cissy Hull-Allen

Notes From the Music Director

Eva Kendrick Conley



Call for performers - Performers of all ages are invited to participate in our annual Music Sunday Service, which will be held on May 25th! With coordination from the RE committee, we are also organizing a children & family choir which will be singing at our Mother's Day service on Sun. May 9th. If you are interested in participating in either (or both!) services, please e-mail me at evakendrick@comcast.net.

Eva's FPUU Fundraising Concert June 6th

Ticket sales are now open for Eva's Voice Studio Generations Concert on June 6th! Visit our website for more details and tickets. We are also looking for bakers, certified bartenders and people to help with set-up/tear-down. Volunteers will receive a free ticket to the show. Contact becca.kornet@yahoo.com and evakendrick@comcast.net if you would like to help.

EVA KENDRICK VOICE STUDIO

GENERATIONS CONCERT

20th Anniversary Celebration
& Fundraising Event
for First Parish Unitarian Universalist
of Medfield*

Saturday, June 6

*26 North St. Medfield, MA 02052

a very special evening of performances
by EKV students, past and present,
WITH: Trills 'n Chills a cappella group,
AND a live band.

Tickets: \$25 General Admission
Reception at 6:00pm — Refreshments and cash bar.
Concert begins at 7:00pm.

For tickets and more information, please visit:
www.firstparishmedfield.org/ekvsconcert



From the Capital Campaign Committee



Join Us For an Evening of Vision & Investment

You are cordially invited to a
Wine & Cheese Reception as we unveil our Capital
Campaign to restore and update
the Historic Meeting House
On Saturday, May 2nd at 7:00 PM
Hosted by Jess & Nate Razza
138 Harding Street, Medfield MA

***Our history was built by those who came before...
Our future is for us to build.***

Kindly RSVP to duncanglover@comcast.net

by Sunday April 26th

Please note that this is an adult only event

Project Bread's Walk for Hunger May 3, 2026

1 in 3 families in Massachusetts face the daily worry of putting food on the table.

**On Sunday May 3rd
Let's Lace Up, Show Up And Make a Difference.**



Former FPM Team Members Daisy, Marilyn, Leah, David, Louise & Avery

**Join First Parish Medfield on Sunday, May 3rd for
a 7 mile Noon Hill hike to help ensure that everyone
in Massachusetts can access food with dignity.**

We will meet in the church parking lot after the worship service.

Since 1969, The Walk for Hunger has brought people together to take action, turning concern into impact and compassion into change. This is more than just a walk – it's a chance to stand up for our community, come together with others who care, and be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

The link for our team page is: <https://give.projectbread.org/team/818247>

Feel free to send this link to anyone who would like to join us and/or donate to our team. Contact Louise Rachin at 617-429-7319 with any questions.



Green Sanctuary Committee



GREEN
SANCTUARY
CONGREGATION

Our next meeting is May 18, 2026, 7pm by Zoom. All are welcome! Email [Jeanette Ruyle](mailto:Jeanette.Ruyle) for link and more info.



Our mission is to raise consciousness about the environment, motivate for individual and systemic change, generate commitment to community action, and promote environmental justice, recognizing that all injustices are connected.

Medfield Climate Week 2026 is May 1- May 9. Your GSC/ FPUU folks are involved!

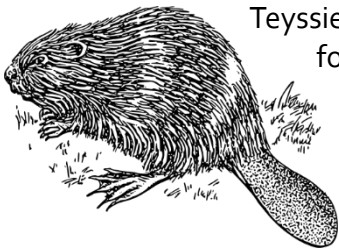
FPUU is hosting the kick-off event on our front lawn on **Friday May 1**, along with Bellforge Arts Center— **“Games and Craft Festival on the half day** [of school]” 11:30 – 2pm. Any helpers will have great fun! Contact Kirsten D’Bate for details.



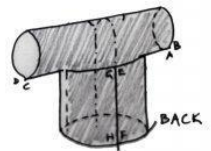
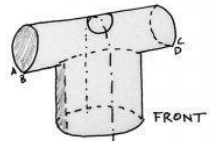
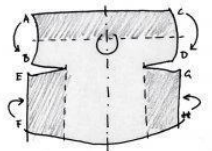
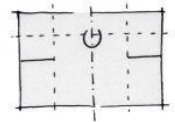
On **Tuesday May 5** at 3:30, there will be the new **“Killing You Slowly Video Podcast”** at the Medfield library about the unexpected health consequences of idling cars, thanks in part to GSC member, Fritz Fleischman.

On **Thursday May 7**, at the library, will be a **“No Waste Sewing Workshop for Adults”** 6-8pm, co-led by GSC member Jeanette Ruyle.

Also on **Thursday** there will be an **Evening Beaver Pond Hike** 6:15-8pm. Meet Blanche Teyssier at the entrance to Rocky Woods. Be sure to check the [schedule](#) for more information.



On **Saturday May 9** **Repair Café** returns, 2-5pm, at Medfield Church of the Advent. Jeanette is one of the repairers.



You can view [the entire Climate Week schedule here](#).

MEDFIELD CLIMATE WEEK
STOP BY ON THE HALF-DAY
MAY 1ST. FRI. 11:30
@ FIRST PARISH UU
26 NORTH STREET
THE HISTORIC MEETINGHOUSE
BY THE POND



ICE CREAM &
HOT DOGS FOR SALE!

FREE
GAMES & MUSIC
TATTOOS
WIN A
TERRARIUM
OR GREETING CARDS BY
KURT JACKSON

EVENT
SPONSORED
BY



B **Bellforge**
Arts Center

REPAIR CAFE!



What is a repair cafe?

Volunteers with repair skills donate their time and tools to help community members fix common items including clothing, jewelry, lamps, locks (rekeying), bikes, furniture, and small appliances.

Fix is free but not guaranteed.

Residents bring any required parts and sign a waiver.

There is a small “parts store” for common items.



SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

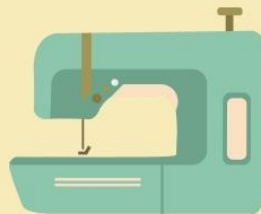
2 PM - 5 PM

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

28 PLEASANT STREET, MEDFIELD, MA



Contact us at sustainablemedfield@gmail.com



Co-sponsored by Sustainable Medfield, Westwood Environmental Action Committee (WEAC), the Dover Recycling Committee, the town of Sherborn and the town of Holliston



FERRY BEACH RETREAT

MAY 15-17



Join us in Saco, Maine for a fun, restorative, all-ages retreat at Ferry Beach.

Relax while collecting shells along the beautiful, seven-mile-long beach, play on the playgrounds, sing by the campfire in the wooded grove, or read a good book on the porch.

We will hold our Sunday worship service in the outdoor chapel among the tall pines.

Like usual, this is a shared retreat with our friends at First Universalist Society of Franklin. There are a variety of types of lodging to choose from: dorms, cottages, cabins, or campsites.

We will arrive Friday evening (no dinner served Friday night). The weekend retreat includes: lodging, breakfast, lunch, dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday.

Registration opens Mon. March 2, on a first-come-first-serve basis
Our unique registration link will be sent to you soon.

If you have any questions, please contact: Thea Iberall, Shirley Riga, David & Kathleen Kassay



From The Annual Fund Drive Committee

The annual fund drive, held each year, is the primary source of financial support for the congregation. Many people worked on the annual fund drive, but in the end, it is the congregation's annual fund drive.

We are happy to report that the congregation has made the 2026-2027 annual fund drive the most successful annual fund drive in the history of First Parish Medfield! The congregation pulled together and:

- committed just under \$150,000 in pledges
- from 44 pledge units

Congratulations to all of you for this success!!

I would like to thank:

- the congregation as a whole
- our pledge leads Ann Cunningham, Allison Galley, David Temple, and Arnold Kalmbach and
- our annual fund drive committee: Mary Corthell, Duncan Glover, Fritz Fleischmann, Don Rolph, and George Lester

Thank you all for all for what you have done to make the annual fund drive this year a success!

Mary Corthell and Don Rolph
AFD Co-chairs

Thank You



Annual Backpacking Trip - August 8-9



First Parish will again this year be organizing an overnight backpacking trip. This year we have reservations at Lake of the Clouds hut just below the summit of Mt Washington:

- <https://www.outdoors.org/destinations/new-hampshire/lakes-of-the-clouds-hut/>

The reservations are for Saturday Night August 8 through Sunday August 9

Most of us will drive up Friday night Aug. 7, stay overnight, and get on the trail early on Saturday.

The hut provides:

- bunk space (bring your own linens or sleeping bag)
- dinner and breakfast

and has indoor toilets (but no showers!!!). So the packs are much lighter than traditional backpacking

The trail is about 3 miles long and has an elevation gain of 2600 feet, but we will take it slow and easy!

If interested, please contact:

Don Rolph
don.rolph@gmail.com

as soon as possible to ensure that there is available space!

Trip signup closes June 27.

We look forward to you joining us!



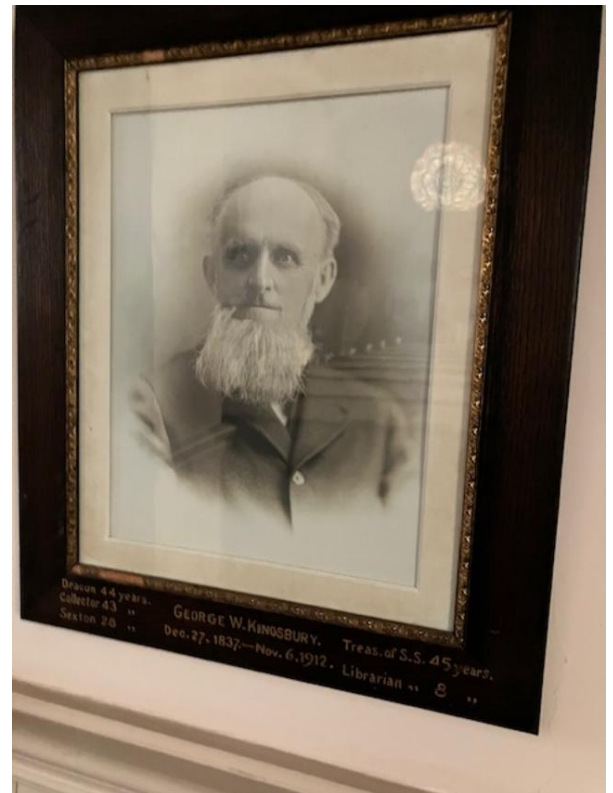
Have You Ever Wondered... (2nd edition for the FPUU newsletter)

In an earlier newsletter, the two unnamed framed photos of two former First Parish ministers that are on the back wall of our sanctuary were identified. Very nearby is this gentleman—**George W. Kingsbury** who is well identified by lettering applied to the frame. Under his name is Dec. 27, 1837 – Nov. 6, 1912. On the left and right are the number of years he served First Parish in various ways. George W. Kingsbury was Deacon for 44 years, Collector for 43 years, Sexton for 28 years, Treas. of S.S. [Treasurer of Sunday School] for 45 years, and Librarian of S.S. for 8 years. Although he was never a minister, he clearly was a “pillar of the church,” as the saying goes.

Kingsbury is an early and prominent family name in Medfield history. The high school is named after Amos Kingsbury, and there is Kingsbury Drive, Kingsbury Pond, Kingsbury Grist Mill, and the Kingsbury Club. Longtime FPUU member Edward “Ned” Kingsbury, who died in 2025, was a relative.

George Williamson Kingsbury was a farmer who served both his church and Town for many years in numerous capacities. Much information can be found online. [This article](#) references George W. as well as other Kingsbury family members and the Kingsbury Homestead (keep scrolling).

During his lifetime twelve different settled ministers served the Medfield First Parish. Mr. George Kingsbury seems to have been an honorable rock of stability for his church community. Very recently, during a Medfield Historical Society ceremony outside our church, he was recognized as one of Medfield’s historical figures with this luminary.



Lastly, Mr. George Kingsbury’s beard style is known as a chin curtain, or a [“Shenandoah.”](#)

Are you interested in history, or old things, or mysteries, or finding treasures of various kinds other than gold? You are most welcome to join me and Alison Galley in sorting out our old records and figuring out how to better store them. Send me an email.

Jeanette Ruyle jruyle23@verizon.net

Sanctuary Flowers



Your help is requested to ensure that we have Sunday Worship Service Flowers. Flowers are a wonderful way to celebrate or memorialize an occasion, event, or a loved one.

If you would like to provide worship service flowers, please contact Louise Rachin at lrachin@comcast.net.

Seeking Coffee Hosts



Coffee hour hospitality after the worship service is a very important time to welcome new members and guests and enjoy some fellowship with one another. If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, please sign up for a specific date using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10Co84DA5A928A3FE3-56905841-coffee#/>



Medfield Food Cupboard

Please contribute non-perishable items to the Medfield Food Cupboard basket located in the narthex. Requested items are: Ensure/**Boost** (chocolate or vanilla), **Rice mixes** (e.g., Rice-a-Roni), **Spaghetti**, Peanut **butter** (preferably Jif or Skippy, creamy), **Jelly** (preferably grape).



Dignity Matters



FPUU supports Dignity Matters, a local non-profit that provides menstrual supplies and undergarments to 15,000 women and girls in Massachusetts living in poverty and/or experiencing homelessness. Donations can be left in the box outside the U-House. Alternatively, they have an Amazon Wish List where you can order items to be shipped directly to DM. Most needed items include sanitary pads (packages of 20, 24, 40, and 48), adult sports bras (all sizes but particularly XL), and new adult underwear in all sizes and styles. If you have questions or would like to have the link to the Amazon Wish List

emailed to you, please contact Becca Kornet.

Chaplains on the Way



The following items would be gratefully received
by the unhoused community of Waltham

- 3 lb. cans of caffeinated coffee
- 12 oz. hot cups w/lids
- Men's and Women's new or gently used light weight coats and jackets, sizes medium – extra-large (preferably made from synthetic fabrics)
- Men's sweatpants & hooded sweatshirts, sizes large & extra-large
- Women's sweatpants & hooded sweatshirts, sizes medium & large
- Men's T-shirts, sizes large & extra-large
- Yoga mats - 1/2" thick
- Sleeping bags
- Travel-size sewing kits
- First aid supplies (adult size band aids, antiseptic wipes, sterile gauze pads, medium & large, first aid tape)

Kindly place your donations in
the box located in the vestry.

Contact Louise Rachin at 617-429-7319
or at president@chaplainsontheway.org with any questions

