

First Parish Unitarian Universalist

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



April Newsletter 2012

Ministerial MUUsings...

The major agenda for an interim minister focuses on five tasks: coming to terms with history; discovering a new identity; shifts of power/leadership changes; renewing denominational linkages; and, commitment to a new future. Let me offer some ideas that I have been thinking of along the lines of these tasks.

History

First Parish in Medfield should be proud of its 361-year old history. I look forward to working with Richard DeSorgher and Dan Bibel to raise an awareness of First Parish's rich history.

Identity

Recently I met with the Coming of Age class for conversation about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. I asked them if they were envious of their peers who had celebrated their Confirmations or Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. I would like our Religious Education Committee to consider a more formal and ritualized service in which they, along with the congregation, celebrate a life passage.

Power/Leadership Changes

I have been impressed with the quality of leadership at First Parish and the untiring commitment people give to this church. Duncan Glover, the MC at Saturday night's gathering,

spoke the truth when he said that there were so many deserving people that could be singled out for recognition for their work and devotion to the church. In this period of change, we have an opportunity to look at the way we do things differently. For example, I believe the church needs to create a Finance Committee that will centralize oversight of the tasks of bookkeeping, bill-paying, managing the endowment, the annual pledge drive, and fundraising. Publicity needs to also be centralized and information about church events needs to be expanded. (As an aside about church information, in order to keep informed about church life, I urge you to read the newsletter, the weekly announcements, the Sunday morning church bulletin and the frequent email announcements. When we learn about someone's illness, we defer to their decision as to how broadly we announce the nature of their illness and its severity.)

Denominational Linkages

For the next year First Parish will be working closely with the Unitarian Universalist Association as the Ministerial Search Committee proceeds with its mission. The Transitions Office of the Department of Ministries and Faith Development will be working with the Search Committee in developing a Congregational Record that will be posted for ministers looking for a church to serve. The MassBay District's Ministerial Settlement Representative and Compensation Consultant have already met with the Executive Board.

Commitment to a new future

Over the next several months you will be asked to give your input to the search committee as to First Parish in Medfield's strengths and challenges. It is

important that you give your opinions and be honest. The worst thing that can happen in a search process is for a minister to be called to a congregation that is quite different than the one the congregation projected itself to be. Also, give serious thought to what qualities and characteristics you want to see in your next minister. Remember this is your spiritual home.

Peace,

Rich

Call for Nominations for First Parish

The Nominations Committee is planning the slate of officers for the next church year. We are looking for volunteers for following positions:

1. Vice Chairperson
2. Member at Large
3. Communications Clerk
4. Treasurer- 1 yr position
5. Nominating Committee

Please contact Rebecca with any questions. The congregation will vote on the slate in our June meeting.

Nominations Committee
Rebecca Stephenson 508 740-0663
Jeanne Capachin
Julie DeSorgher

Religious Education Notice

Religious Education grades 1-6 and Neighboring Faiths grades 7/8 are hiking to Noon Hill Peak this coming Sunday, April 1st!

We will hold kids worship circle at the top of Noon Hill Peak, with a picnic lunch to follow.

- We will leave from the church parking lot right at 10:00 am, and will return to the vestry by 12:00 noon. -This is a very gentle hike, approx 15 mins walk to the peak, but has great views and impressive granite ledge.
- kids must **pack their lunch and water in a small backpack**, and bring an extra plastic bag to pick up trash along the trail.
- sneakers/boots & layered clothing, appropriate to the weather. We go rain or shine (well, unless it's really pouring...or snowing!).

Parents: Kindly rsvp to Kirsten D'Abate- kk@dab8.net,

We need your kid headcount to plan a safe and fun hike with enough leaders and cars/car seats to get to the hiking trail.

Adults and parents are welcome also- we could use the chaperones. There are no other activities for RE planned that day, but any children unable to walk that day can attend service in the sanctuary, or join the little lights group in the vestry.

Pastoral Care Team

The First Parish Pastoral Team is a one-on-one ministry whereby members of our church can help other members who need care. A Pastoral Team member is a confidential, compassionate, and listening presence. The Team meets year-round for training, supervision, and peer review of their work. This is done in an environment of complete confidentiality. These caring volunteers are skilled in caregiving, feelings, listening techniques, grief, maintaining boundaries, confidentiality, depression, and the realities surrounding substance abuse, death, and dying. They are also there to help People who are facing the challenges of parenting or supporting children through difficult times. If you are in need of compassionate caring please speak with Rev. Stower.

FPUU Yard Sale – A Success Story

On March 17, we the people of FPUU filled our vestry with recycled treasures to host our annual yard sale. In addition to the many home, garden, sports, and entertainment items, this year we added larger indoor and outdoor furniture items (and a canoe!) to our inventory which was showcased at the Olde Antique Shoppe in the U House. We celebrate many successes from this effort: the joy of church community, donations from non FPUU folks interested in supporting the preservation of our historic building, and shoppers from surrounding towns. Added to all of this good will and church spirit - *we also have over \$2000.00 to deposit in the church account!*



As with all major efforts, there are many people to thank for the time, energy, creativity, elbow grease, and perseverance it takes to make it happen. We thank you all, individually and collectively, for your work, your care, and your collaboration to make this yard sale a real FUNdraising bash. And to all our supporters and shoppers! Thank You.



Let's do it again next year!

Gaby, Karen, and Fred
The Yard Sale Gang



STAR Awards: March 24, 2012 Annual Fund Drive Event



2012 STAR Award Recipients: Eve Potts, Cissy Hull-Allen, Fred Bunger, Barb Bunger, Sara Drumm and Buck Buchanan (not shown)

During coffee and desserts at the March 24 Annual Fund Drive event, the Fund Drive Committee honored members of our Congregation who have donated their talents, time, efforts and resources in unique and outstanding ways. The Committee polled the Congregation seeking nominations for various STAR awards, tallied the nominations and made the awards on a democratic basis. All nominations were supported by numerous accolades. Awards were presented to:

- ✧ **Eve Potts:** The Saturn Award to a resourceful 'gardener' who, like Saturn the god of farming, not only plants the seeds but also harvests the crop.
- ✧ **Cissy Hull-Allen:** The Mother Earth Award to a grounded, nurturing woman who gives tirelessly of her time and resources.
- ✧ **Fred Bunger:** The Father Earth Award a grounded, nurturing man who gives tirelessly of his time and resources.
- ✧ **Barbara Bunger:** The Mercury Award to a tenacious go-getter who, like Mercury the winged god of travel, moves with incredible speed and doesn't stop until she or he gets the job done.
- ✧ **Sara Drumm:** The Rising Star Award to a new or renewed member who radiates enthusiasm, energy and bright ideas.
- ✧ **Buck Buchanan:** The Hale-Bopp award to a member who continues to shine brightly over many decades. In honor of Buck's many years of outstanding service to First Parish and the Medfield Community, the Hale-Bopp is a one-time award that has been retired.

2012-13 Annual Fund Drive – The Sky’s The Limit

On March 24 we came together for **hors d’oeuvre & wine pairings** in the homes of host members followed by coffee & dessert in the Vestry. **We enjoyed great food and each other’s** fine company. Star awards were presented to six members who have made outstanding contributions of their time, talent, and resources to Medfield First Parish.

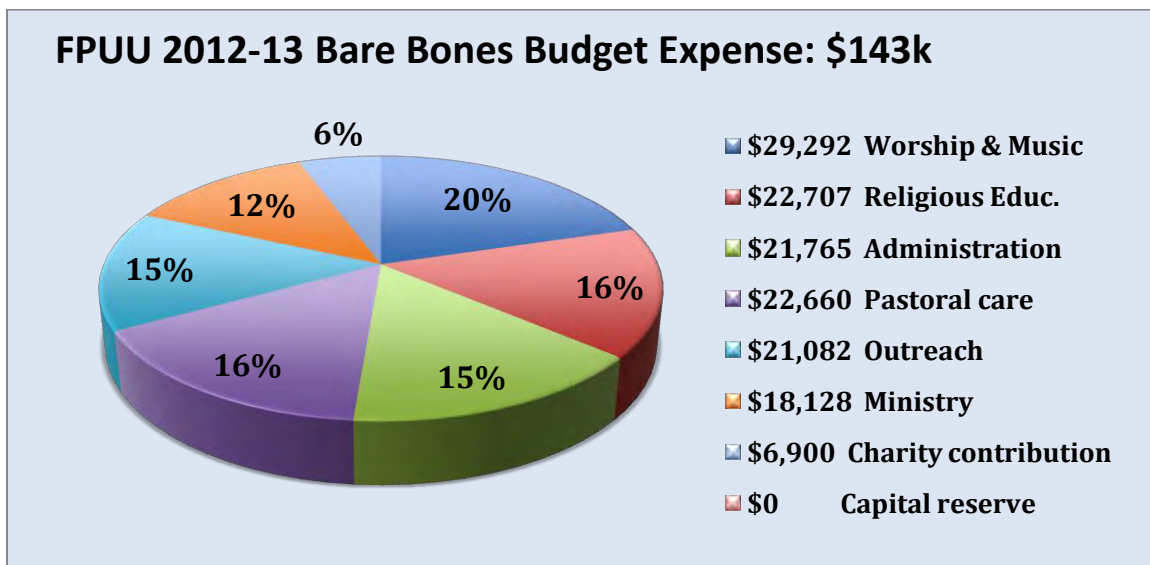
Why are you a member of First Parish Medfield? What does the First Parish community mean to you? What nurtures you? What fills your cup? During our 2012-13 Annual Fund Drive we ask that you reflect on these questions before making your financial pledge.

We believe that if everyone pledged 2% of his or her adjusted household income we would balance the budget. Last year the average pledge was \$1,824. This year our goal is to increase this average by 25% to \$2,280.

We would be most grateful:

- If you are able, pledge 2% of your adjusted household income or higher
- If you are unable to pledge 2%, increase your current pledge by 25%
- If you are making a pledge for the first time and unable to pledge 2%, pledge the goal for **this year’s average: \$2,280.**

The following pie chart shows a 2012-13 preliminary bare-bones budget currently under review by the Executive Board. As shown, the preliminary 2012-13 bare bones budget of \$143,000 is allocated among our programs as follows: (1) Worship & Music 20%; (2) RE 16%; (3) Administration 15%; (4) Pastoral Care 16%; (5) Outreach 15%; (6) Ministry 12%; and (7) Charity Contributions 6%.



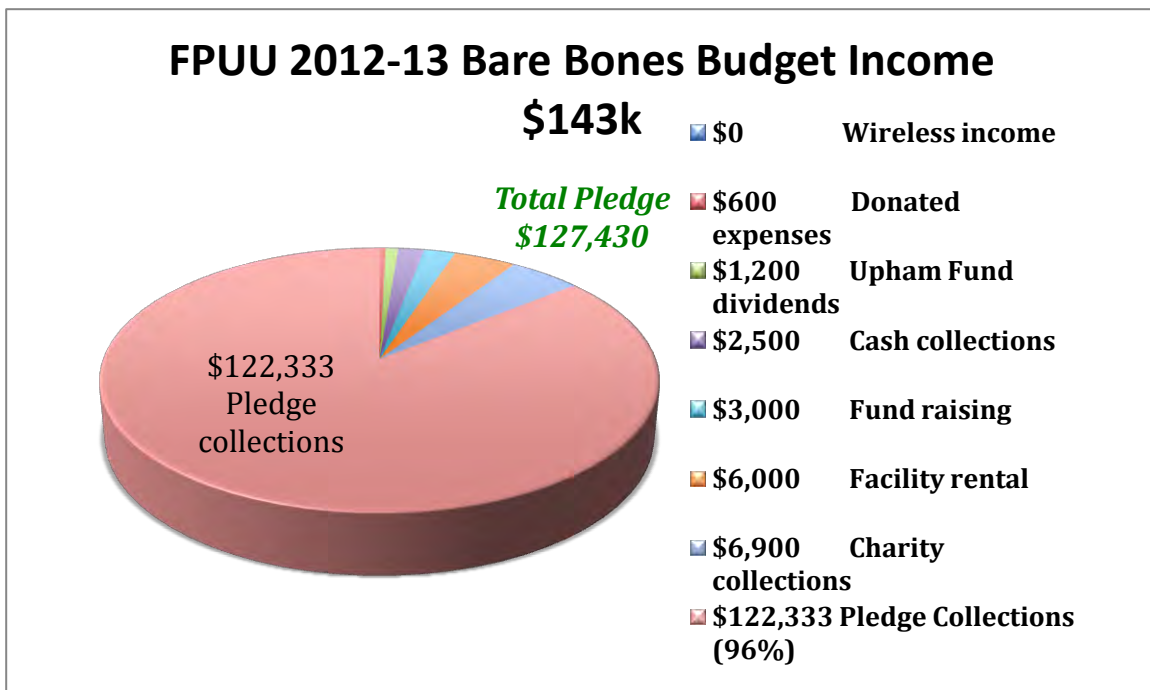
Notes: **RE** includes all ages; **Outreach** includes social action, UUA, MBD, UUSC, Urban Ministry, etc.; **Ministry** includes minister’s activities to strengthen the Congregation from within; **Historic Building** expenses are allocated across all categories.

The above bare-bones budget has the following features:

- Reduce Administrator from 12 to 8 hours/week
- Reduce RE Director from ½ time to ¼ time
- 3.4% cost-of-living increase for Minister & Music Director
- Defer additional building maintenance
- Bare-bones Committee budgets
- Minimal (\$500) Ministerial Search Budget
- Zero Capital Reserve

The next pie chart shows the preliminary income that is projected for 2012-13, which assumes that pledge collections balance the preliminary bare-bones budget. As shown, the preliminary 2012-13 bare-bones income totals \$143,000 with 86% of this total coming from pledge collections. Our upcoming Fund Drive needs to total \$127,430 just to balance a bare-bones budget, which is a 7.5% increase above last year's Fund Drive total of \$118,540. To have any chance of balancing the bare-bones budget, we would have to ask for a 15% increase.

It is our goal however to do more than a bare-bones budget. We strive to maintain our Administrator at 12 hours per week, to maintain our RE Director at ½ time, to substantially increase our Ministerial Search Budget, and to provide funds for a marketing campaign to increase our membership. To do this we need to increase our total pledge income by **25%** to \$148,000.



The focus of our Annual Fund Drive is our collective stewardship of First Parish Medfield. Members and Friends value our diverse, enriching programs as well as our historic church building. For the upcoming year, most of us would like to retain and build upon these programs.

The Annual Fund Drive Committee: Duncan Glover, Louise Rachin, Mark Samels, and Marshall Sugarman

Executive Board Notes

Meeting held on March 15th

- **Ministerial Search**

Ministerial Search Representative Georganne Greene led the March 11 Sunday Service. She spoke on the process of transition and renewal that FPUU will go through in the search for a new settled minister. After the service, she met with the congregation and then held a meeting with the Executive Board to define our role in preparing for Search. See the separate article on ministerial search in the newsletter.

- **Semi-Annual Meeting**

A special meeting of the congregation was held March 5 to review the financial status of FPUU and discuss the basis for the Annual Fund Drive. Bare Bones, Maintain and Dream Budgets were presented. Given the current membership, the continuing expenses and the desire to maintain and improve Church programs, the Church will need to ask for a 25%+ increase in pledges in the Annual Fund Drive this year. The income from current membership size is less than needed to meet expenses, so it was suggested that funds be set aside to begin a membership drive. We will also look into availability of grants for membership growth projects.

- **Seeking a Finance Committee**

To organize effectively for FPUU future, it is planned to form a Finance Committee. It would

coordinate fundraising, the seeking of grants, development of annuities, annual fund drive and treasury functions. We are looking for volunteers to help with these efforts.

- **Medfield Community Singers**

The Medfield Community Singers will no longer be using the UCC church. Fritz Fleischmann proposed that the Medfield Community Singers be offered First Parish Meetinghouse as a place to revitalize their group. In the spirit of helping FPUU be more visible in the community, the Board agreed that they could use FPUU facilities without charge.

- **Farmers' Market**

Bob Luttman reported that the Medfield Farmers' Market would open May 31 and continue through October 11. Four vendors have signed up and more are being sought. The Market will be operated from 2 to 6:30 on Thursdays. Volunteers are needed to cover Thursday afternoons during the summer.

PLEDGE STATUS: We are only at 71% of pledges collected. Please check to see if you are up-to-date on your pledge.



MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP

Coffee Hour—Thanks to all for your generous contributions during this church year. Coffee hour at First Parish is a special time and we appreciate your continued support.

Contact Information—We want to stay up to date, so if you have a new mailing or e-mail address, phone number or cell phone number, we'd love to know! Contact Sandra in Admin. A new FPUU Directory will be coming out soon!!

Photo Album--Bring in those family photos (4 x 6), or arrange a photo shoot with David Temple or Barbara Bunger at church. Get to know the congregation, and a "must have" for the Ministerial Search.

Enjoy these spring days!!

Membership Committee

Ministerial Search Process

FPUU is undertaking a process to select a settled minister in the spring of 2013 to start in the fall of 2013. This April, FPUU membership will elect 7 people to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee. The Ministerial Search Committee over the next 12 months will create a profile of FPUU to present to minister candidates, will interview and qualify potential candidates and will make a selection for approval by the FPUU membership.

To create the search committee, all FPUU members will be asked to name the 7 persons they feel could best represent FPUU. From this survey of members, the top 12 to 14 names will be contacted to ask if they will serve and will give up any leadership position during the search. A parish meeting will be held to elect the 7 search committee members from the slate of 12-14. The top 4 will be elected, and the Board will select 3 from the slate to insure diversity and representation of the demographics of FPUU.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN THIS. PLEASE PARTICIPATE. For further information, the search committee selection process and the ministerial search calendar are posted on the website.



April 22nd

The Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Sunday Service

Every year the Social Justice Committee presents a worship service dedicated to issues of social justice importance. This year we invited Mr. Sam Williams, a Human Services leader in the Boston area to speak to us. Mr. Williams is the Chief Operating Officer of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Roxbury, where he operates and manages three programs of the ministry: Youth programs, the Renewal House domestic violence shelter, and United Souls, a program that provides group support and counseling for those recently released from prison. He is a poet, writer and trainer.

Mr. Williams began his presentation by thanking the congregation for supporting the programs of the Urban Ministry in the last few years. Then through his poetry and sermon, Mr. Williams spoke about how he grew to recognize the strengths within himself to overcome obstacles, to conquer his demons, and develop the abilities and skills to inspire others to join in the process of becoming what they can become. He showed us how to recognize the resources we have within ourselves, how to learn to value ourselves and others, and how to cultivate our inner strengths to make a difference in the world around us.

We all were profoundly inspired by Mr. Williams' words and presence in our worship community. In

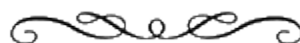
our collection, we gave more than a thousand dollars to support Urban Ministry programs.



Pictured L-R, Nancy Kingsbury, Sam Williams, Pat Clark & Barbara Bunger



Barbara Bunger presents Urban Ministry's Sam Williams with a check for \$1024 collected from First Parish UU's in the "Acres of Diamonds" service.



Announcements

Volunteers Needed: The Sherborn Community UU Church will be hosting homeless families through Family Promise (formally Metrowest Hospitality Network) during the first week in April. Volunteers are needed for set-up on Sunday, April 1st and also to help prepare food for dinner on Wednesday, April 4th. Please contact a Social Justice Committee member for more information.

Let's Laugh Today on Monday, April 23rd



Laugh to get your heart pumping and the positive energy flowing! This is an excellent way to start the week!

Laugh on every fourth Monday of the month at 7:15pm at the Meetinghouse of the First

Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, MA. They laugh in a group and initiate laughter as a form of exercise. Through eye contact and child-like playfulness, laughter then becomes contagious and real. There is a \$5 donation per person with a maximum of \$10 per family. All ages and all physical abilities are welcome. Everyone should experience this healthy, fun exercise at least once! Since laughing is dehydrating, please bring your water bottle.

Linda and Bill Hamaker are Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers who were trained by Dr. Madan Kataria, the creator of Laughter Yoga. See www.letslaughtoday.com or call 508-660-2223 if you have any questions.

Metrowest Pet Pantry



FPUU now has a donation box set up for the Metrowest Pet Pantry. The pet pantry, located in Millis, provides a variety of pet food and supplies for families in need, some of whom would have to surrender their pets to shelters without the pet

pantry's assistance. Donations of opened or unopened food are accepted, as well as all manner of supplies. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the pet pantry feel free to talk to Brianna Cusanno, who is working with the pet pantry to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award.

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

Jelly
Canned fruit
Juice (bottles and juice boxes)
Canned chicken
Sandwich plastic bags
(Quart & gallon size)
4-packs of toilet paper
Tall kitchen garbage bags

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



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Special thanks to Sam Flaherty who will be delivering all the donations from the FPUU to the Food Cupboard.

Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com

There are many ways to support First Parish - volunteering is another. But you can also help by Amazon.com or by getting your coffees, teas, and Exchange.



and Equal Exchange

becoming a member is one, buying things through chocolates through Equal

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!

Among Ourselves

Congratulations to **Amelia Steeger** and **Troop 74900** for earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award for Cadette Girl Scouts, for their work with their Cranes for Change project.



Please remember the following deadlines: **Church Newsletter:** Third Sunday of the month. **Order of Service:** Wednesdays by 5:00 pm. If you miss this deadline but have an announcement to be made at the church service, please submit a typed announcement to the service manager for that given Sunday and send a copy to the office.

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Telephone: 508-359-4594

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Sandra Andreassi - Administrator

Upcoming Services (All Services Begin at 10:00 AM)

April 1 "Where the Heart Is" Rev. Richard M. Stower

We are familiar with the expression, "Home is where the heart is." Having a sense of place is an emotional feeling - a feeling appropriately felt in the heart. But, in this context, what does "place" mean?

April 8 "Easter" Rev. Richard M. Stower

We Unitarian Universalists look at Easter in a different way from most others. Yes, we agree, it is a time of renewal, hope and faith. But for most Unitarian Universalists Easter is a myth. There was no empty tomb; there was no resurrection; Easter, for Unitarian Universalists, is a metaphor. Many of us would agree with the sociologist Peter Berger who believes that the importance of the resurrection is not whether it actually happened but what it means to the existence and the mind of the believer. This is the question for us Unitarian Universalists.

April 15, 2012 "There Is No Sun There" Rev. Richard M. Stower

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, begins at sundown on April 18. In this sermon, Rev. Stower recounts his visit to Auschwitz, its meaning to him and its meaning to all.

April 22, 2012 "Our Joys as Winged Dreams Do Fly" Rev. Richard M. Stower

This sermon discusses one of life's great paradoxes that are evoked by this poem of Rumi:

Birds make great sky-circles
Of their freedom.
How do they learn it?
They fall, and falling,
They're given wings.

April 29, 2012 Michelle Figuerado, Guest Speaker

Michelle is a Business Transformation Senior Associate at State Street Corporation, where she is the only known transgender employee and the only known person to transition on the job in the company worldwide. Committed to "paying it forward," Michelle serves on the board of SpeakOUT Boston, on the steering committee of State Street's LGBT Global Inclusion Group, State Street Pride, as a camp counselor at Aranu'Tiq, a summer camp for transgender and gender questioning youth, and is an active member of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. Currently a resident of Cohasset, Massachusetts, Michelle received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. She is also a member of First Parish UU Church in Scituate, where Rev. Stower served for nineteen years, before coming to Medfield.

FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 1	Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Friday, April 6	Good Friday/Passover begins
Sunday, April 8	Easter
Wednesday, April 11	Membership Committee Meeting /7:15pm/Bunger's
Thursday, April 12	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 19	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, April 22	Earth Day Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 24	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, April 29	Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, May 5	FPUU Fundraiser/Vestry
Tuesday, May 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, May 9	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15pm/Bunger's
Saturday, May 12	Recycling Event/9:00-2:00pm/Parking Lot
Thursday, May 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, May 19	Medfield Garden Club Spring Sale/Vestry
Tuesday, May 22	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/U-House
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day/Office Closed
Thursday, May 31	Farmers' Market Opening Day

For a complete listing of events, please visit our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. If you would like to book the Sanctuary, Vestry or U-House for an event or meeting, please check availability and then contact the church office at admin@firstparishmedfield.org