

# First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

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



## September Newsletter 2013

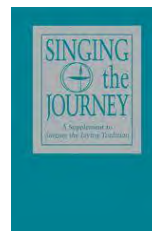
### From the Minister



Dear First Parish friends,

I am so glad to finally be with you at the start of this new church year. It is an exciting time, one filled with renewal and energy!

You'll soon see that there is much more that's new at the church than just the minister. There's the very talented and capable new Director of Religious Education, Alison Streit Baron. There are the new supplemental hymnals



(Singing the Journey) that our music director purchased with some of the proceeds from the benefit performance of her play last year.

Then there's the spruced-up deck and front of the church office/RE building, and the website that has been re-oriented toward potential visitors. Finally, the new church sign – the one that the Membership Committee worked so hard on – it is up, now, and *it looks fabulous!*

While these signs of renewal and energy have come in the quiet of summer, in September -- the prime month for church visitors -- they will ensure the church presents itself in the best possible light

to newcomers as well as to old friends and members.

Still, neither paint on a front porch nor a more visitor-focused website, nor a new hymnal, nor new minister nor new DRE are at the heart of anyone's search for a church home, though they can help make the decision to step through our doors.

At its heart, the search for a church home is the search for a faith community of people that will support and push the seeker to grow, love and live in the light of shared values and commitments.

I invite *you* to 'church shop' this September, too. Come to Sunday worship services and social hour, look at the website, share your pastoral concerns

with me, examine the adult education opportunities, talk to other members and your new DRE about their dreams and plans. Then, ask yourself how you hope that FPUU Medfield will support and push *you* to grow, love and live in the light of our shared values and commitments. I am eager to hear your answers.

See you in church!

Many blessings,  
Rev. Meg

Office hours:  
Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 – 2:30  
And by appointment  
Work cell: 781-767-7663  
Pastoral emergencies: 781-850-3307

## Adult Enrichment Fall/Winter 2013-2014

### Classes and Workshops

#### **Unitarian Universalist Basics**

A three-hour introduction to Unitarian Universalism and this church. Led by Rev. Meg Soens. Sunday, January 26, 12:00 – 3:00 pm in the Vestry. Email Rev. Meg at [minister@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:minister@firstparishmedfield.org) for more information or to register.

#### **Who are We? Who Are Our Neighbors? Learning to Speak Christian**

The foundational source of Unitarian Universalism is what we might call the alternative Judeo-Christian tradition. It informs our Unitarian Universalist assumptions about the nature of the universe, of human beings, of the human predicament and our best responses to it, and the nature of what lies beyond and within all that is. Yet many of us are reluctant to embrace or acknowledge this -- we mistakenly identify "Christianity" solely with a contemporary, dominant form of Christianity that is not our primary heritage.

This class will explore basic Christianity, especially its two great divergent streams, and place them in historical and theological relationship to our contemporary Unitarian Universalist movement.

Course Reading: *Speaking Christian*, by Marcus Borg; *Saving Paradise*, by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker. Led by Rev. Meg Soens. 6 weeks, Wednesday, October 16 - November 20, from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm in the Vestry. Email Rev. Meg at [minister@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:minister@firstparishmedfield.org) for more information or to register.

## Celebrating Differences and Having Hard Conversations

When faced with situations where differences surface about things that feel important, it can be hard for us to communicate well and lovingly. How can we as individuals and as groups set ourselves up for a successful conversation, ongoing or one time? How can we turn conflict into growth? Led by Alison Streit Baron. Winter. For more details email Alison at [dre@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:dre@firstparishmedfield.org).

## Ongoing Programs

### Church Choir

Our excellent adult choir practices on Sunday mornings before the service at 9:00 AM during the church year. Special musical events, such as productions of the music director's original musicals, are held occasionally.

### Lunch Bunch

Brown bag lunches once a month with Rev. Meg. Second Tuesdays at noon in the church office building. Starts Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Director of Religious Education



Greetings from your new Director of Religious Education! Can I tell you what I think about when I think about religious education? I'll start with what I think it's not...

First, it's **not something that happens only on Sunday mornings** (in the Christian tradition). It's something we experience throughout our days, throughout our lives.

Second, it's **not just for children**. All of us can and should be engaged in learning at every age. (I try not to use the word "should" too much, but in this case, it's true!)

Third, it's **not necessarily about content or curriculum**. The most meaningful and memorable "religious education" is what we learn from one

another, about how to be in community together, and how very holy that is.

All of that being said, I will at first be focusing on Sunday morning programming for kindergarteners through sixth graders, primarily relying on the UU's Tapestry of Faith curriculum. As many of you know, Tapestry of Faith uses stories, discussion, experiential learning, and creative expression to encourage participants to reflect on the meaning and the practice and the challenges of things like "home," "community," "family," "forgiveness" and "justice."

We'll begin this fall with kids and adults crafting a covenant (an agreement about how we want to be together) and we'll have kids who've been in the program for a while teach the rest of us (or at least me) how children's worship has been done at FPUU. Then we'll figure out as a new group whether we want to make any changes. Throughout, we'll be referring to UU's Seven

Principles and talking about what they mean and how they can guide what we're doing.

Meanwhile, the question I will always be asking myself, and what I'd like you to think about, is this: **How can this RE program provide sacred learning space?**

Consider not just physical space but conversational space, creative space, relational space, and reflective space. The possibilities are many, and the ideas will come not just from me as the DRE but from everyone, including the kids.

I like to think about how all of these spaces might encourage **connection** of participants—to one another, to themselves, to the congregation, and to the wider world. I also want the RE program to build a capacity for **curiosity**. My hope is that everyone who participates (not just young people, but myself and other adults too) will learn with and from and alongside one another, drawing on their own perspectives and life experiences, and going beyond those (in a developmentally appropriate way) to what might be unfamiliar or challenging. Ideally, our differences will interest us rather than scare us, so instead of being fearful, we can be "wonder"ful! How does this happen?

### **Stories**

Our own experiences and stories are often our most powerful teachers, and hearing other people's (and other cultures') experiences and stories—truly entering into the experience of another—is how we develop understanding of and caring for each other, with all our differences and our struggles. We can read stories, tell stories, illustrate stories, act them out, respond to them

and explore where they take us in body, mind or spirit.

### **Rituals**

Ritual helps promote sacred learning, connection and curiosity too. Ritual helps us enter into sacred space, mark it as special. That's why there's so much ritual in our worship. It opens up possibilities of something new happening, within us and between us and beyond us.

### **Questions**

Unitarian Universalism is more about "searching" than "knowing," and its commitment is to community rather than ideology. UUism, and certainly RE, is concerned with how we ask and answer questions in community. We may have our own personal questions, but the big questions, the sacred questions, require us to go beyond ourselves. This is, to me, the hardest and most important work there is. Developing and maintaining a stance towards each other and the world that is both loving and questioning.

I promise to get more specific about this fall's themes and activities, but I wanted to give you a sense of where I'm starting from.

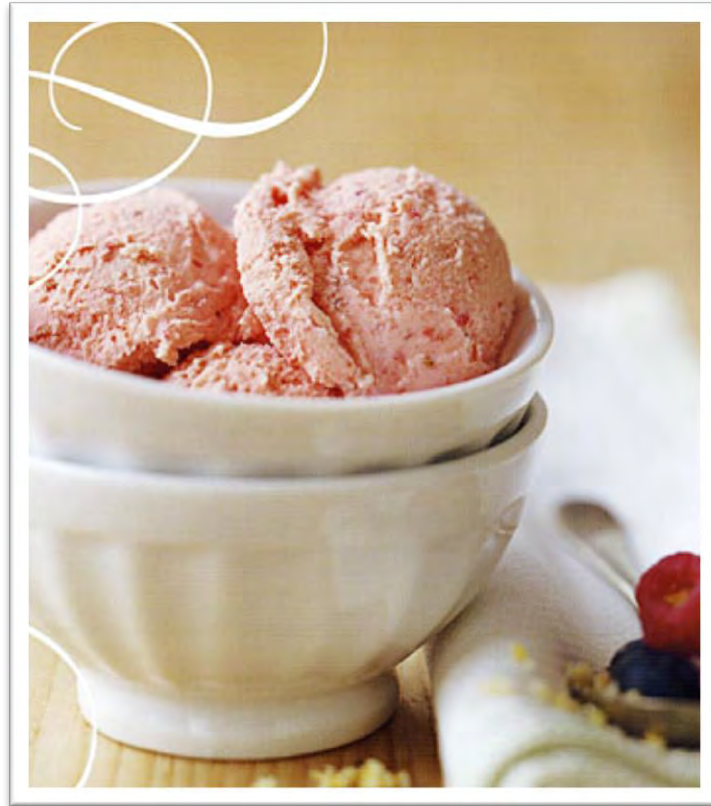
Looking forward to continuing with you, with all of us as students and as teachers!

Alison Streit Baron

Even if you have not filled out your RE family registration form yet, please email [dre@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:dre@firstparishmedfield.org) a.s.a.p. with the names and ages of any children who will be participating in the RE program K-6 this year

Alison's office hours are Monday's 11-1 or by appointment.

*Your new Director of Religious Education  
Invites you to an ice cream social!*



*Thursday, September 5, 3-5 pm in the Vestry*

*Please stop by and say hi, introduce yourself and/or your kids,  
and share your hopes for the RE program.*

*Let me know if you might come so I have enough ice cream:  
[dre@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:dre@firstparishmedfield.org)*



## Coming of Age Program

The Coming of Age (COA) program will once again be facilitated by David Maxson and Cissy Hull-Allen. This journey in faith exploration will meet once or twice a month, usually on Sunday evenings in the First Parish vestry beginning October 20th at 7pm. Email Cissy ([mecha60@comcast.net](mailto:mecha60@comcast.net)) with questions.



## Executive Board Notes

Executive Board meetings were held on June 13 and August 15, 2013

- ❖ **Medfield Day – Saturday, September 21** – Plans are moving ahead for First Parish activities.
- ❖ **Pledge Collections for 2013 and for 2014:** Fiscal year 2013: \$109,600 of the \$117,500 pledged has been collected (93%). Fiscal year 2014: \$29,000 of the \$111,063 pledged has been collected (26%).
- ❖ **Reverend Meg Soens** - It was very exciting to have Rev. Meg join us for the August board meeting. Rev. Meg has been very active since her first official day of August 1:
- ❖ **Leadership Retreat** – Rev. Meg led a very productive retreat with the Executive Board and committee chairs on Aug. 17.
- ❖ **“Spruce-up day”** – scraping, sanding, and painting the front entry of the U-House.
- ❖ **Website upgrade** – Rev. Meg has been coordinating a re-vamp of the website, with the goal of making the website more “outward-directed,” since most people looking for a church get their initial information through the website.
- ❖ **New Ministry Workshop** – Rev. Meg has made plans for this workshop for the entire congregation. It will be held on a Sunday in October (the date still to be confirmed).

Margaret Rolph  
Executive Board Co-Chair



## From the Worship and Music Committee



### Worship & Music

Welcome back to another church year! I'm sure everyone is looking forward to kicking off the 2013-2014 year with Rev. Meg Soens! We have already had several energizing, uplifting, and thoughtful meetings with Rev. Meg, and we are really excited about the year to come.

You may notice some changes to our Sunday services. We welcome your feedback, whatever it may be. If you would like to comment on anything, feel free to contact any of the members of the Worship and Music Committee (listed below) or send an email to [worship@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:worship@firstparishmedfield.org).

One particular change we would like to point out is about **announcements**. As always, announcements will be printed in the insert in the

Order of Service. However, we will **no longer be having any spoken announcements during the service**. If you have something to include for a given Sunday, please make sure to send it to [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org) by Wednesday of that week. If something comes up that you'd like to announce and you haven't gotten it in the insert in time, we will have time downstairs during coffee hour for additional announcements to be made.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our first service on Sunday, September 8!

#### *Worship and Music Committee*

Becca Kornet, Chair  
Greg Beedy, Vice Chair  
Barbara Bungler  
Deb Carbarnes  
Julie DeSorgher  
Eva Kendrick  
Sally Rose  
Susan Stromgren  
David Temple  
Karen Wians  
Sarah Zitoli

## Message from Membership



*Join us*

Change is a happening at First Parish Medfield. Just look around and you will see

it...the addition of our new Minister and Religious Education Director, the sprucing up of the U-House (Minister's Office), and the new church sign.

The energy and enthusiasm are palpable! It feels like a hibernating bear is about to awaken after a long winter's nap!

Come and join us on September 8. Renew your faith and uplift your spirits.

We'll be there to greet you and welcome you back!

# **MEDFIELD DAY**

## **THOUSANDS TO VISIT FPUU**

### **SEPTEMBER 21**

Medfield Day will be held September 21, from 9 AM to 3 PM. First Parish is in the middle of the activity and it is a great opportunity to make a good impression on the community.



- For the kids, the RE Committee and students will be sponsoring pumpkin painting and, perhaps, games.

- For the historical-minded, the Membership and Buildings and Grounds Committees are sponsoring tours of the Historical Meeting House clock tower.



- For the hungry and thirsty, willing and creative FPUU volunteers will be making and serving baked goods and coffee.

- For the chefs wanting fresh local produce, a mini-farmer's market will be set up.



- For people interested in knowing more about FPUU and Unitarian Universalism, brochures and information will be set out and Rev. Meg will be available all day.

### **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!!**

PLEASE VOLUNTEER AS YOU ARE ABLE TO BAKE, BREW (coffee), SELL AND SUPPORT FIRST PARISH. Sign up schedules will be put in the vestry and there will be many e-mail appeals for help. Thanks in advance for your help and your commitment to First Parish.



# Le Bistro Café

## A New Musical

Love, Los Angeles, Fine Dining, and a Very Bad Blind Date

*Music & Book  
by Eva Kendrick*



**Please join us on  
September 27 & 28  
for a dinner theatre  
production of  
Eva Kendrick's  
original musical  
Le Bistro Café**

Set in a French restaurant in modern-day Los Angeles, Le Bistro Café is a fun, light-hearted musical comedy about a couple on a blind date. A mischievous waiter and waitress place a bet on the outcome of the bet and do everything they can to win the bet. The musical features music, lyrics and book all written by FPUU Music Director Eva Kendrick.

Le Bistro Café stars FPUU Medfield members Becca and John Kornet as Maxine and Tom, the couple on a blind date and Shirley Riga as

Zsazsa, a soap opera diva. Other cast members include Kelly McManus, who appeared in Kendrick's opera Emily, Ariel Galford, Ryan Spilker and Guthrie Morgan who have been performed with the FPUU choir, opera singer Brian Gonzalez as Damien the waiter and a chorus of busboys, waitresses and doowop girls.

We hope you can join us for an evening of entertainment, as well as delicious appetizers and delectable desserts,

**Tickets are \$20.00. To order tickets, please order online at [www.ticketstage.com](http://www.ticketstage.com); by e-mail: [music@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:music@firstparishmedfield.org) or by phone: 774-526-5700. Ticket reservations may also be made with Eva at Coffee Hour.**

## A Bit of FPUU History...

Submitted by David Temple



The great hurricane of 1938 roared up the east coast and struck New England on September 21. Some 700 people were killed, over 50,000 houses were damaged or destroyed, and the damage total was the equivalent of nearly \$5 billion 2013 dollars.

The late Dorothy Kane was an active member at FPUU for decades; her husband, Howard, well into his 90s, still attends regularly. Dot once told David Temple she was sitting on the steps of the library, looking across at our church, during the hurricane. A gust tore off the steeple, flipped it around, and drove it into the roof like a spear. After she saw this, she understated, "I thought I'd better go home."

When the roof was repaired, the heavy slate steeple tip was left at the far end of the attic. In person, you can still see it, but it's too dangerous to attempt to get close enough for a decent photo.

## Transition Team Formed to Support Rev. Meg Soens

I am pleased to announce that five members of the 2013 Ministerial Search Committee--Jenifer Bartle, Dan Bibel, Kirsten D'Abate, John Kornej, and David Temple--have agreed to join me as members of a transition team to support Rev. Meg as she settles in as our new minister. We will work to provide Rev. Meg with our collective guidance, support, and FPUU member feedback until a permanent Committee on Ministry is created later in the church year. Over the next few months, the FPUU community will have the opportunity to learn about what a Committee on Ministry is and what role it will play in the ministry of our church. Please feel free to ask us, or Rev. Meg, any questions you may have about this process.

Louise Rachin & the FPUU Transitional Team

## Other Announcements

### Farmers' Market to Continue!



Due to popular demand, the Medfield Farmer's Market will continue to run until the end of September with Ward's Berry Farm selling fresh fruits and vegetables on Thursdays from 2:00-6:00 pm.

### 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](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org) and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!

### Flowers for the Sanctuary Needed



Please consider in participating in the sanctuary's decorations this year - especially if you've never considered it! All of the flower arrangements are always welcomed and appreciated by church members. We are in need of flowers for the months of November, January, February, May and June.

You can bring in flowers for one Sunday or more. This would be a wonderful way to celebrate or memorialize an occasion, event, or person. Flowers from the florist or from your own yard are welcome.

If you are interested in donating a fresh or silk flower arrangement to the church sanctuary this year, please contact Rebecca Stephenson via the church office at [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

## A Few Words about the Medfield Food Cupboard:



As in the past, First Parish will be collecting food items for the Medfield Food Cupboard. The Food Cupboard exists to provide assistance to residents of Medfield who are in need of supplemental or emergency food. The Medfield Food Cupboard is generously supported by the residents of Medfield, the town's churches, and various community organizations.

To meet the needs of their clients, food distributions are held approximately every 2 weeks at the Food Cupboard home: the United Church of Christ, 496 Main Street, Medfield. If you need the services of the Food Cupboard, please call us at 508-359-4958 and leave a message.

Donations of non-perishable, unopened, unexpired food items may be dropped off in the narthex. Donations of canned tuna and chicken, canned pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, applesauce, juice, pasta sauces, paper products (paper towels, Kleenex, and toilet paper), cleaning products, and health and beauty aids such as shampoo, toothpaste, and shaving razors or refills, are always welcome. Financial donations may be mailed to the Medfield Food Cupboard at PO Box 172, Medfield, MA 02052. Financial donations are used to supplement food contributions by purchasing meats, cheese, frozen items, and any item in short supply

***We are pleased to announce that Evan Springer will be the coordinator for our church this year.***

## 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 am to 2:00 pm.

Email: [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator



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

**September 8**

**"In-gathering in a Season of Renewal"**

**Rev. Meg Soens**

Rev. Meg leads the traditional Unitarian Universalist ingathering celebration – the intergenerational water communion. Whatever we did during the church's summer hiatus, we bring something with us to the church community again. It may be something expansive, like refreshed energy for spiritual practice, or simply our exhausted self after a summer of sorrow. We all bring something. What gift do you bring this September? Bring some of your own water from the summer if possible. We will have water available for those who need it.

**September 15**

**"Beginning Ministry Together"**

**Rev. Meg Soens**

Starting the church year with a new minister is a time of excitement and renewal. There are new possibilities and new energy, and there are adjustments to be made as well. As we hold hands together and jump off the waterfall's edge, what do we want to remember about our shared ministry?

**September 22**

**"Celebrating Gifts of Our Faith"**

**Rev. Meg Soens**

Each person that comes to worship in the church brings gifts with them, and each person receives them as well. What are some of the gifts our Unitarian Universalist tradition offers us today? How does the stream of the tradition in which we stand offer life, and life abundantly?

**September 29**

**"One of Love's Challenges"**

**Rev. Meg Soens**

Love is a word with rich and diverse meanings. What does it mean when someone we love is in pain? For us, and for them?"



## FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, September 2	Labor Day, office closed
Thursday, September 5	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds DRE Ice Cream Social/3-5 pm/Vestry Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30-9 pm/Vestry
Sunday, September 8	First Service - In-Gathering/10:00 am
Thursday, September 12	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Sunday, September 15	Religious Education Begins
Tuesday, September 10	Lunch Bunch with Rev. Meg/12:00/Church Offices Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, September 19	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, September 21	Medfield Day/Grounds & Sanctuary
Thursday, September 26	Medfield Farmers' Market/Grounds
Friday, September 27	Le Bistro Café/7:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, September 28	Le Bistro Café/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, October 8	Lunch Bunch with Rev. Meg/12:00 pm/Church Offices Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, October 10	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30-9 pm/Vestry
Monday, October 14	Columbus Day
Thursday, October 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, October 20	Coming of Age begins/7-9 pm/Vestry

. 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](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)