



First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



September Newsletter 2014

From the Minister

Rev. Meg Soens

Labor Day is here - and that means our In-gathering Service is almost here, too! We'll gather again as a faith community in the Sanctuary on September 7, and kick-off our new church year together. I want to thank you for the time off and a wonderful summer: I am very happy to be back at church with you now.

Although I was at General Assembly, then study leave and vacation this summer, lay people made sure that services on topics as diverse as "poetry as prayer" and "all creatures great and small" were held on nine Sundays. I heard very good things

about these services, and I deeply appreciate the collaborative efforts from the worship and music committee, our music director, and other lay people in making sure they happened.

I'm excited for this coming year with you. There will be many opportunities to connect and serve, to grow and give at church this year.

We'll start off with the great fun of Medfield Day on September 20. This is a day when we can meet and welcome each other and many neighbors to our church through activities such as painting pumpkins and tours of our historic clock tower. Our monthly social service commitment to NewLife Home Refurnishings begins again this

month. Regular all church potlucks and the series we started last year, "Mondays at UUMedfield", will also get going in October, and we'll have a half-day workshop on Unitarian Universalism and this church in late September or early October.

For me, learning how to live out more deeply one's values is at the heart of life well-lived, and that's why I'm most excited about something else that will be happening this year: the Executive Board is going to lead you this year in a process to discern a clear and context-based mission for this church.

What *is* FPUU Medfield's overarching purpose in this place and time? Helping you all figure this out is one of the goals the Executive Board set for itself this year, and it is one that will really point us into our future together.

I support the Executive Board's taking on this hard and rewarding work for a number of reasons:

First, as a non-profit organization, it is the mission that 'owns' the church, not the congregants (past, present or future) or the board or the staff. In fact, the primary duty of an executive board is to ensure that the church advances its' mission. But in order for the executive board to do that, we need a mission that is more focused than the fine but very broad mission statement that is in our bylaws.

Secondly, the New Education Building Committee spent a great deal of energy exploring the possible parameters of a new education/administration building over the last two years with an architect, and the Board wants to move forward in that exploration.

Initially, the board and I thought we would ask a diverse group of lay people to evaluate the plans developed by the outside architect for their

viability and feasibility. However, your Board chair and I met with the lead capital campaign advisor of the Unitarian Universalist Association this summer, and he told us that we were not ready to do a substantive preliminary feasibility study. He said that since we did not have a focused and succinct mission for the church, we wouldn't be able to articulate how the building would fit into a larger vision in a way that was going to be compelling to people. He told us we needed to understand our mission before we are ready to move forward.

The covenant effort we began last year will be folded into this work.

Discovering our particular purpose puts us on a joyful path of growing and giving as a community.

We will find our mission at the intersection of our values, our talents and gifts, and the needs of the communities around and within us. And by finding that sweet spot of focus, we will be able to grow, together, in many different ways.

In my next minister's message, I'll share with you a useful way of looking at growth.

Welcome back to your spiritual home! See you in church!

Many blessings,
Rev. Meg

<p>Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays By appointment Work cell: 781-767-7663 Pastoral emergencies: 781-850-3307</p>

From the Director of Religious Education

Alison Streit-Baron

Beginning Again

We're preparing for the new church year, and while some things stay the same from year to year (like the Water Communion when we first gather together), other things change, including all of us, and of course especially the kids.

Since we plan Religious Education several months in advance, we're always planning for kids who aren't quite "there" yet. Because they are already different from who they were when they were last in church in June! And in a few months, they will be different from who we know them to be right now. Also of course, new folks may join us at any time.

That being said, we do have this fall pretty well laid out, and it's going to be a little different than what some of the kids are used to -- the ones who've been around First Parish a while.

As many of you know, this year we'll be offering a curriculum called Spirit Play, which follows a particular structure each week, includes a story or lesson, and then gives kids time to do their own work independently and creatively, using various materials and art supplies. There is also a snack time built in, so instead of kids racing to social hour for treats, they will stay in the Spirit Play classroom (which is upstairs at the U House, freshly painted!) until parents come get them.

Two adults facilitate Spirit Play each week, the "storyteller" and the "doorkeeper." The storyteller conveys the story or lesson (following a script, and learning it as much ahead of time as possible), and the doorkeeper welcomes kids into the space and helps set and maintain the tone throughout the class. *If you might like (or be willing to) play the role of storyteller or doorkeeper at some point during this church year, please come to the orientation below.* We'll go over some basic policies and procedures for RE at First Parish.

Spirit Play materials



May all your beginnings be faithful!

Alison Streit Baron

Alison's office hours are Tuesdays, 10-2, by appointment.

**RE orientation on Sunday,
September 7th,
from noon-2 pm in the vestry**

Who should attend?

- Little Lights child care providers
- Spirit Play storytellers and doorkeepers
- OWL & youth group facilitators



Sandwich fixings will be provided. Bring your own drinks.

OWL (Our Whole Lives)



Our Whole Lives will be offered again this year for 8th and 9th graders! This awesome sexuality and spirituality focused curriculum was developed by the UUA and the UCC. The facilitators this year are Chris Conley and Cissy Hull-Allen, with backup from Chris Flaherty and our DRE, Alison Streit Baron. We'll be having a parent orientation on October 19, and start with our group sessions on October 26. It's two - three Sunday evenings each month, 7p-9p, in the vestry.

We will still have lots of opportunities for our young people to continue to connect with the larger First Parish community on Sunday mornings! There is limited space for others in our larger community again this year - have interested parents contact Cissy (mecha1030@gmail.com).

Dates to Remember

Youth Group gathering Sunday September 14 at 7 pm: any 9th-12th graders interested in High School OWL, Popcorn Theology, service/work/learning trips, or just hanging out and having fun, should come have dinner with us!

OWL (Grades 7-9) parent orientation Sunday September 19 at 7 pm

OWL (Grades 7-9) begins Sunday September 26 at 7 pm

RE-hosted breakfast Sunday October 5 at 9 am! New families especially welcome!

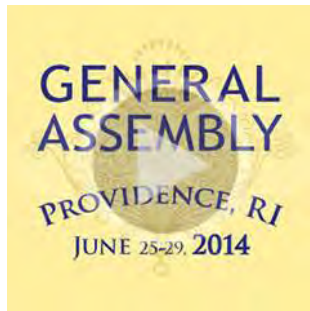
Adult Enrichment Fall 2014

Upcoming Classes and Workshops

Unitarian Universalist Basics

A three-hour introduction to Unitarian Universalism and this church. Led by Rev. Meg Soens. Will be offered in October. More information will be posted soon.

UU General Assembly in Providence



Rev. Meg, Alison Streit Baron, Eva Kendrick and I attended this year's UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI June 25-29. Over 4700 UUs from across the country attended. There was a lot of energy and great music, with a special highlight of seeing our own Eva Kendrick singing some solos. I attended several informative workshops and had a chance to meet fellow UUs from near and far.

At GA a Congregational Study/Action Issue is voted on by the delegates. Eva Kendrick and I represented First Parish as delegates. This year Escalating Inequality was voted to be the 2014-2018 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI). There is detailed information on this study/action issue, as well as information and video from the General Assembly at www.uua.org.

Margaret Rolph
Executive Board Chair

Call for Choir



The choir welcomes new members at any time! You are not required to sing in all services to join the choir, as we understand everyone has busy schedules. You need have no experience or training, just a desire to sing! Recorded parts are also available for each song to assist with learning. For more information, please contact Eva at evakendrick@comcast.net.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Sept. 5 (7-8:15 p.m.)
Sept. 7 (In-Gathering)
Oct. 19, 26 (Memorial)
Nov. 2, 16, 23, 25 (Interfaith Thanksgiving), 30
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 24 (Christmas Eve)

All choir rehearsals are at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning unless otherwise noted.

Notes from the Music Director

Eva Kendrick



Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! I wanted to share with you some of my summertime UU musical activities.

In June, I attended General Assembly in Providence, which was conveniently half a mile from Chris and my apartment! I sang in four services: the UU Minister's Association Opening Worship and Vespers Service, the Thursday morning water-themed service, led by composer Rev. Jason Shelton, and the Friday morning service music led by GA Music Director David Glasgow. It was a special treat to perform in the UUMA Ministry Days services and see how the ministers have moments of community, reflection and self-care. I was proud to sing duets with opera singer Janette Lallier, and Broadway veteran and minister-in-training Craig Rubano during those services.

As a delegate for First Parish UU of Medfield, I took part in several plenary sessions as well. I am proud to say that I was able to vote for the three Actions of Immediate Witness that were adopted: helping support the Quaker's Underground Railroad to help the LGBTQ community in Uganda; preventing gun violence and helping families of deportees. The theme of this year's General Assembly was Love Reaches Out, and this theme was woven throughout all of the sermons and services. A witness event was held at the UU-sponsored Waterfire event in downtown

Providence, during which UUs wore their Standing on the Side of Love t-shirts and sang from the hymnals. The local coverage of GA was very positive in the Providence Journal, and many people witnessed positive support of UUs in downtown Providence including a sign outside a local restaurant that said, "UUs are rad! Keep up the good work!"

I also attended my fourth UUMN conference in San Diego, California, where I began my second year of courses in the three-year UUA Music Leadership Certification Program. I sang an original song at one of the Conference Recitals; attended the Professional Development Day on the roots of our music; sold some original music at the UUMN bookstore; and for the first time at a national conference, I led a workshop on the topic of The Business of Music! I also took workshops on Rehearsal Techniques, Arranging for Small Vocal Ensemble, Care and Ethics of Worship and much more!

One of my favorite moments was when someone came up to me after my workshop, because he recognized me from the *Emily* opera I wrote which he had seen performed in Louisville this past spring! A small world indeed! I'm already looking forward to attending the UUMN Conference in Boston next summer and for continuing my certification work throughout the year with the help of my UUMN Mentor Shawn McCaan and my FPUU sponsor, Greg Beedy. I want to thank Rev. Meg Soens, the Executive Board, the Worship & Music Committee and all of you for your continued support!

Executive Board Notes



An Executive Board meeting was held on August 21, 2014

Financial Update:

FY 15 - at 14% through the fiscal year:
Pledges: \$21K (16.5%) out of \$121.9K (budget) collected
Fundraising: \$.4K (4%) out of \$9.7K (budget) raised
Rentals: \$1.8K (16%) out of \$11K (budget) collected
Cash on hand (Rockland Trust Account): \$13K

Mike Drumm reported that pledges for FY14 came in at 103%

Clerk Position: Debi Nicholas has submitted her resignation; the Board will seek a replacement to serve until the end of the church year.

Committee Liaison Assignments: Each of the standing committees has a liaison from the Board, who checks in with the committee and reports back to the Board.

Executive Board Goals for the year: At a retreat for the board this summer, we developed a set of goals:

1. Develop a vision for the church, by the November EB meeting.
2. Develop a plan for the church to discern and produce a core mission by November; implement the plan this church year.
3. Develop and implement a plan for the revitalization of church committees.
4. Develop a process by which the EB will provide better financial oversight and greater transparency to the congregation.

These goals were adopted on a unanimous vote.

Vision Exercise: Rev. Meg led us in an exercise to begin the development of a vision for the church.

Medfield Day, September 20: Planning for Medfield Day, a great opportunity for visibility for First Parish.

Margaret Rolph
Executive Board Chair

Opportunities to Serve – Altar Flowers Needed



First Parish is currently in need of flowers for the sanctuary on Sundays. For many of us, live plants and flowers tap our spiritual core and enrich our worship experience. For others, they're just beautiful and therefore enrich services. Flowers can be an arrangement from a florist or even a bouquet from your own yard. Flowers are also a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one.

For more information please contact Rebecca Stephenson at rgspt1@gmail.com.

GET READY FOR Medfield Day

On

SEPTEMBER 20!!



Medfield Day will be held September 20, from 9 AM to 3 PM. First Parish is in the middle of the activity and it is a great opportunity to join in the fun with both the church and the community!

- For the kids, the RE Committee and students will be sponsoring pumpkin painting and 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 THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN VOLUNTEER. YOU CAN 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.

Farmers' Market Continues!



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 and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!

Among Ourselves...

A message from Deb Carbarnes and Mark Samels

Dear First Parish Family and Friends,

It is with sadness and joy that we now share that news that we are planning to move from Medfield this summer. We are now in the busy process of getting our house ready to sell and put on the market. We plan to move closer to Boston. This also means that we will be leaving First Parish. We have had a wonderful time at the church and have made new friends, engaged in meaningful conversations, been guided on spiritual paths, and especially enjoyed all of incredible music that Eva has enriched us with. We've even learned to become fond of some UU Hymns!

Thank you to all of you for sharing in this time together.
Love, Debra and Mark

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.

The Medfield Food Cupboard has requested the following from our church for the month of September: Canned fruits! - peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce, Canned vegetables - corn, green beans, peas, carrots, Pasta sauce, Jelly, cookies, crackers and juice boxes.

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

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, September 1	Labor Day, office closed
Tuesday, September 2	Pastoral Care Meeting/7:30-8:30/U-House
Thursday, September 4	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Sunday, September 7	First Service-In-Gathering/10:00 am RE Training/12:00-2:00pm/Vestry
Tuesday, September 9	Committee on Ministry Meeting/7:30-8:30pm/Vestry
Thursday, September 11	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds Worship & Music Meeting/7:15-9:00pm/Vestry
Sunday, September 14	Religious Education Classes Begin Youth Group Begins/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, September 18	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Saturday, September 20	Medfield Day/Grounds & Sanctuary
Thursday, September 19	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Thursday, September 25	Last Medfield Farmers' Market/Grounds
Sunday, October 5	RE Hosted Breakfast & Open House/9:00am/Vestry RE Committee Meeting/12:00pm/Vestry
Tuesday, October 7	Pastoral Care Meeting/7:30-8:30pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, October 9	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30pm/Vestry
Monday, October 13	Columbus Day/Office Closed
Sunday, October 19	OWL Parent Orientation/7-9 pm/Vestry
Sunday, October 25	Worship & Music Potluck/6:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, October 26	First OWL Meeting/7-9pm/Vestry