

# *First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield*

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

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



*“Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience”* Ralph Waldo Emerson

**March 2015 Newsletter**

## From the Minister

Dear First Parish folks,



This month we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery march that marked a huge turning point in the struggle for voting rights for black people.

The Selma march was planned after the death of a young unarmed black man at the hands

of state police. Black people were very angry about yet another unjustified murder of a black man, and civil rights leaders decided that a several day march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama would channel people's energy in a peaceful, productive manner.

On March 7, 1965, the first attempt took place. Called Bloody Sunday, sheriff's deputies and state police beat unarmed black men, women and children as they tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge outside Selma. The televised images of unarmed black people being beaten by the officers shocked the nation. Two weeks and several deaths later, with the protection of the federal government, the marchers finally made that five-day walk from Selma to Montgomery. And the federal voting rights law was on its way.

But anti-racism history happened all over. Just a couple of days ago, the Boston Globe had an article about a new curriculum that will soon be woven into the Boston public schools' history classes, a new curriculum dealing with the busing desegregation crisis in Boston in the 1960s. As an

aide to then-Boston Mayor Kevin White said bluntly, "busing was our Selma."

The director of instructional development for the Boston Public School system started work on the new busing curriculum, inspired last year by the 40th anniversary of the federal order to desegregate the Boston schools. But she felt *compelled* to make it a reality after the protests erupted this summer over unarmed black men being killed by police.

Many more black people can vote now than could in the early 1960s. Unarmed black men being beaten and killed by police officers is still an issue, though, and not just in the South.

This December our church, like the Boston instructional director, felt compelled to respond after more protests over unarmed black men being killed by police; we held a procession in Medfield to lift our voices in solidarity with the suffering of black people who still face pervasive, hurtful racism.

Let's take inspiration, as the director of instructional learning in the BPS did, from the past. This month, let's remember and be inspired by the bravery of the marchers, mostly black and some white, who faced violence and injury fifty years ago in Selma in the search for justice.

And let's look at the present too, and feel *compelled* to take some kind of action to reduce racism in our various communities, our families and ourselves. It's not that the people who work and serve us in the judicial and enforcement systems are bad people: the systems we have set up in these areas are what makes racism pervasive, and that's what the struggle must be with.

I invite you to think about what you have done recently, or could do in your day-to-day life about the racial injustice that still permeates our society.

And I invite you to join myself and (hopefully) clergy and people from some of the other churches in town again soon, in a follow-up to our December march. Perhaps we'll go see *Selma* (the movie) together, and discuss it afterwards.

My deep hope is that we'll all be inspired by this fiftieth anniversary of the Selma march, and

compelled by the injustices that still occur, to take some kind of meaningful action in support of racial justice and healing this spring and in the months that follow.

Many blessings,  
Rev. Meg

## From the Director of Religious Education

### One Shovelful at a Time



Like many of you, I've spent a fair amount of time shoveling snow this past month. At first, it seemed like good exercise, then as the days went on, it became a chore, and finally, a few weeks ago, it just made me want to cry.

But I did have one "peak experience" shoveling, and it's helped with all the rest since (and hopefully with whatever's on the way).

The situation: Our driveway is long and narrow and on a hill, with a turnaround area at the bottom of it. We keep that turnaround clear so we don't have to back out onto our road, which is a major road with an endless stream of traffic.

We have a snowplow that comes and pushes as much snow as possible away from the turnaround area, but at a certain point this winter, the snow had nowhere to go, and the plow actually got stuck in our driveway, buried under a pile of snow it was trying to move. Yes, we had to dig out the snowplow!

It was clear that we would need to ourselves move the snow, shovelful by shovelful, out of the driveway and into the side yard. The snowbank was about 5' tall and about 5' deep, and at least 10' across the foot of the turnaround. There was nothing to do but begin.

I put on snow pants and snow boots and snow mittens, I had a water bottle, and I put on some old Emmylou Harris music: songs of suffering, longing, and faith. It really helped me get going. I tried to imagine all the people all around the Northeast shoveling along with me.

I started to hit my stride after about a half hour. It felt good to use my shoveling muscles. Then I put on Peter Gabriel and really got cranking. I blasted the music loud enough that all my shoveling neighbors could hear it too.

About an hour into it, I thought about calling my kids outside to help me, but I found that I was really loving the solitude, the music, and the movement. I was nice and warm by that point. And it was beautiful out there.

I was also waiting the whole time for my spouse to get home, so help was on the way. Even though I shoveled on my own for almost three hours, the idea that he would be (or could be) there any moment also helped keep me going. I imagined how impressed he would be, and how he'd insist that I take a break and go inside for some hot chocolate right away.

Of course, there were times when I was so exhausted that I just lay down in the snowbank and looked up at the sky and tried to imagine the spring: the sun, and the melting, and the birdsong, and being outside without four layers of clothes on.

All along, I tried not to get too caught up in how much progress I was making, because that turned out to be pretty discouraging.

At the very end, I literally had to talk myself through my routine. Shovelful by shovelful: "Dig! Lift! Shuffle! Heave!" Over and over again, until I was in kind of a trance.

I never finished shoveling, of course. Not when I declared myself "done" on that day, and certainly not any day since. (There's been several more feet of snow since then.) But there was some satisfaction in knowing I did what I could in that moment. I kept thinking of the old rabbinical saying "You are not obligated to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it."

One more source of inspiration on that day was the soundtrack from the movie Lilo & Stitch, especially "Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride," a song about surfing. It reminded me that somewhere in the world, right now, people are swimming, surfing, and singing. And in fact, in six months, I will be walking somewhere with sweat running down my face, putting one foot in front of the other in order to get to some pond or pool I can dive into, or lying awake in my bed with three fans pointed at me, dreaming of polar bears and ice floes.

This winter, too, shall pass, as every season does. In the meanwhile, what keeps you going, between the shovelfuls?

--Alison Streit Baron



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- Jr. High Our Whole Lives (JOWL) for grades 7-9 will meet in the U-house from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> we will meet from 4-6 pm.
  - High School Our Whole Lives (HOWL) for grades 10-12 will meet in the Vestry from 1:00-3:30 pm on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Youth Group – Grades 10-12 will not be meeting this month.



# First Parish Medfield Indoor



**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 am-1:00 pm**

***DROP-OFF DONATIONS: FRIDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>***

***4-8PM***

## **This Year's Features:**

- Early drop-off: bring your goods to the Vestry (28 North St. Medfield) as early as Tuesday March 10<sup>h</sup> and leave in the designated section or call Sandra in Church office 508-359-4594 to arrange pick-up.
- Friday night drop-off: Age-appropriate Happy Hour! Wine & cheese, light beverages and snacks (from 4 PM Friday March 14th).



## **Reminders:**

We accept (in good condition): sports equipment, bikes, electronics, CDS, DVDS, books, games, toys, kitchen ware, knick-knacks, garden items, tools, media, and small appliances.

We CANNOT accept: TVs, computers, outdated software, clothing, shoes, car seats, bedding, sofa beds, and large appliances. If you have furniture, please consider donating it to New Life Home Refurnishing.

PLEASE nothing broken, incomplete, or unsellable!

## **Help Still Needed:**

ONE WEEK BEFORE: we need bags, boxes, and packing materials

FRIDAY EVENING: we need an E-Bay researcher with handheld device to explore donations online and help us to set aside valuable items for special sale

AFTER SALE: we someone to manage online sale of special items

\*There is a sign-up sheet posted in the vestry.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Karen ([wianskbad@verizon.net](mailto:wianskbad@verizon.net)), Gaby ([chezgaby@verizon.net](mailto:chezgaby@verizon.net)) or Fred ([fbunger@verizon.net](mailto:fbunger@verizon.net)) or leave a message with Sandra in the Church office: 508-359-4594.

## Message from the Membership Committee

### Welcome Behn Family!

The membership committee welcomes our new members Tina and Wesleigh Behn to First Parish, along with their children Ethan (12) and Marcus (9).



that it is often due to a soccer game!

The Behns have lived in Norfolk for 12 years, and Wesleigh is originally from Medfield. Wesleigh has worked in construction management for many years, and Tina works as a speech and language pathologist. Tina's interests include exploring meditation and spirituality, and Wesleigh's include bee keeping and environmental issues. Their sons, Ethan and Marcus, are active soccer players, and Wesleigh is a soccer coach. On the Sundays when the Behns are not in church, Tina noted

We are very happy the Behns have joined our community, and we look forward to getting to know them.

## From the Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Bylaws of First Parish UU of Medfield, the Nominating Committee hereby issues a call for nominations, including self-nominations, for the Executive Board of First Parish. There are three open positions: Chair, Treasurer, and one at-large representative. All terms are for two years, with the possibility of serving a second term.

The Nominating Committee also notes that openings are likely on the Worship and Music Committee and on other committees. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, you should contact the current chair directly.

Finally, the Nominating Committee itself will have two openings for the coming year. If you are interested, please contact any of the current members.

Serving on a congregational committee is not just a good way to support the mission and operations of First Parish. It is a wonderful opportunity to work closely with the remarkable people who make us the special community we are. We hope to hear from you.

Respectfully,

Bill Wians  
Julie DeSorgher  
Jen Bartle

### Flowers Needed for

**Sanctuary:** Would you like to have a loved one remembered at our Sunday service or mark a special occasion? Your donation of flowers would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Rebecca Stephenson 508 740-0663 or [rgspt1@gmail.com](mailto:rgspt1@gmail.com)



## Notes from the Music Director

Dear FPUU Friends,



I wanted to say a big THANK YOU for your support of our January musical fundraiser, the concert featuring the opera singer William O'Neill. The event was well-attended, an

evening of wonderful music, and a big success, raising about \$1,300 (gross) for First Parish Medfield! We had some excellent pre-show publicity in *The Boston Globe*—approximately half of the audience were non-church members. I am glad so many of you were able to attend as well! The performers commented on how welcomed and appreciated they felt by everyone at the church and how much they loved singing in our building, which does have lovely acoustics for music.

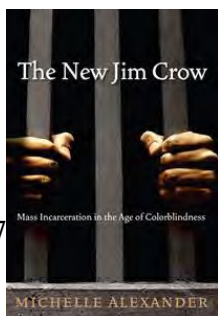
I wanted to thank each member of the Worship & Music Committee for their help in organizing, setting up, promoting, catering, ticketing and cleaning the event, and the many other volunteers who helped. It was truly a team effort! I especially wanted to thank Susan Stromgren for the amazing desserts and Becca Kornet for aiding in production. The cameo performance by John Kornet was also a delight!

If you missed the event, you can watch the world premiere of my short opera *The Break-Up* at the following YouTube link: <http://youtu.be/iCZRfl2-fqM>. It was subsequently performed at the Contemporary Theatre Company Springboard Season Festival in Wakefield, RI and at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Song Festival at the University of Rhode Island. Plans are underway for a West Coast premiere in the near future!

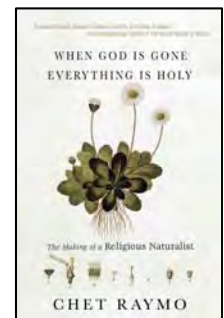
If you enjoy these musical fundraisers, I hope you will consider helping out with our next production, a new original full-length musical I have written, *Operator*, about telephone operators in the 1960s. We received a grant from the Medfield Chapter of the Massachusetts Cultural Council for this event, which will be held on May 1-3, 2015. We are accepting volunteers for many positions and hope to make this fundraiser as big of a success as our last dinner theatre, *Le Bistro Café*, in 2013! If you are interested in being involved in any way, large or small, please e-mail me at [music@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:music@firstparishmedfield.org). I look forward to bringing you another fun, family-friendly musical and with your help and support, another successful fundraiser for our church!

Best wishes!  
Eva

## FPUU Book Club



Our next book discussion will take place on March 22 at 11:30 am in the U-House. I invite everyone who is interested to come and talk about Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness" which I preached about last spring.



Next month, on April 26, please join me to share your thoughts and responses to Chet Raymo's book "When God is Gone, Everything Is Holy." I look forward to our conversations! -- Rev. Meg

## 2015-16 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE EVENT



**SATURDAY MARCH 28, 6:30 PM**

**SING OR PLAY A SONG... RECITE A POEM...TELL A STORY...  
OR JUST LISTEN & ENJOY BUT...**

**COME TO THE FIRST PARIS OPEN MIC CABARET!!**

**Please Join Us in the Vestry for an Evening of  
Phenomenal Music, Food & Fun**

**Featuring Jazz Pianist  
Joel Larue Smith**

Mr. Smith, founder of the Joel Larue Smith Trio and Director of the Jazz/Big Band at Tufts University has toured extensively throughout the world performing at Royal Albert Hall in London, The White House, Lincoln Center and Boston Symphony Hall. He will be joined by Boston Songstress/Mistress of Ceremonies Donna Brescia.

**RSVP by 3/21 with number of attendees to 508-528-8456 or [duncanglover@comcast.net](mailto:duncanglover@comcast.net).  
You may also contact Duncan should you wish to reserve an open mic time slot or to  
provide sheet music.**



## Free-will donation to cover the musicians' costs: \$10/person

### Notes from the Executive Board

An Executive Board meeting was held on February 19, 2015



**Report from the New Education Center Task Force:** Darline reported that the task force has sent out questionnaires to several UU churches in our area that have recently completed capital campaigns for building projects, and they've received detailed feedback from First Parish Sharon.

**Boiler modifications:** Fred Bunger obtained bids for pressure relief valves for the two church boilers. This is a state safety code requirement. We voted to approve an expense of \$3200 for this work.

**Buildings and Grounds:** We reviewed a list of outstanding buildings and grounds repairs and maintenance. We now are working with a spreadsheet dividing the work into long and short term, with priorities within those time frames. We will continue working with this in order to develop a reasonable budgeted amount in the FY2016 budget, as well as to fund a realistic capital reserve.

**Snow plowing:** The big snow storms have the consequence of big snow plowing costs. Eve Potts of the Building and Grounds Committee has negotiated a better price from the snow plowing company, but we are on track for another year of high costs.

**Mission Statement Workshops:** One successful workshop with 15 in attendance was held on Sunday, February 8. A second workshop has been postponed until March 10.

**Budget Planning:** We began looking at the budget for FY 2016; the budget must be developed in time for the Fund Drive activities at the end of March.

Our next board meeting will be Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 7:30pm.

Margaret Rolph  
Executive Board Chair

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Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on

March 8<sup>th</sup>!



## Church Office Reminders



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

## 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.

**Just go to [Firstparishmedfield.org](http://Firstparishmedfield.org)  
and click on the link at the bottom of any page!**

## Food Cupboard Donations Needed

The Medfield Food Cupboard thanks you for your on-going support. Your continued efforts help us to maintain a huge service that would be so difficult to maintain without your generosity.



The following are the Medfield Food Cupboard current needs:

**Kid-friendly  
cereal  
Beef Stew  
Sweet Snacks**

**Salty Snacks  
Fruit Bowls  
Juice Boxes  
Coffee/Tea  
Single Rolls of Paper Towels**



Have you got your walking shoes ready?

Family Promise Metrowest is excited to announce our

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual *Walk Away Homelessness* Walkathon

SATURDAY, April 11, 2015 on Natick Common, registration opens at 7:45am  
Walk begins at 8:30AM

Entertainment, raffle prizes and refreshments to follow post-walk.



Gather a group of colleagues, friends, fellow parishioners, family members, or strangers – ALL AGES WELCOME!

Alternatively, you can sponsor a walker.

TOGETHER WE WILL “WALK AWAY HOMELESSNESS”

This year’s goal is \$80,000 - we need your help!

By participating your proceeds will benefit families who are homeless with housing, job training, healthcare services, transportation and life skills counseling, to name a few.

For details of the day visit our website: [www.familypromisemetrowest.org](http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org) or call 508-318-4820.

## FPUU Calendar of Events for

# MARCH



Sunday, March 1	RE Committee Meeting/12:00 pm/Vestry JOWL Meeting/7-9:00 pm/U-House
Monday, March 2	Medfield Historical Society Meeting/6-9:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, March 10	Church Mission Workshop/7-9:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, March 12	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15-9:00 pm/Vestry
Friday, March 13	Annual Indoor Yard Sale Set Up/4-8:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 14	Annual Indoor Yard Sale/9-1:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, March 15	JOWL Meeting/7-9:00 pm/U-House
Tuesday, March 17	Committee on Shared Ministry Meeting/7:00 pm/U-House
Thursday, March 19	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, March 21	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day/8-12:00 pm
Sunday, March 22	Newsletter Deadline  FPUU Book Club/11:30-12:15 pm/U-House  Fund Drive Training/12-2:00 pm/Vestry  HOWL Meeting/1:00-3:30 pm/U-House  JOWL Meeting/7:00 pm/U-House
Sunday, March 28	Annual Fund Drive Event/6:30 pm/Vestry



