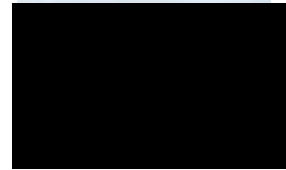




First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



April 2015 Newsletter

From the Minister

*April is the cruelest month, breeding
lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
memory and desire, stirring
dull roots with spring rain.*

Even if you love April awakenings, some of you might be tempted to agree with T.S. Eliot once you remember that this IS the month we talk a fair amount about money here at the church. Actually, we don't just talk about it, we ask for it! It's the month of the annual fund drive, when each of us is invited to reflect on the importance of the

church and its mission in our lives, and to make a commitment to support it. I hope that you will carefully read the letter from the Annual Fund Drive Committee, that follows this message in the newsletter, and reflect on their well-chosen words.

And, when you reflect, be inspired by your memories -- think back on your connections with other congregants, and the role the church has played in your own life journey.

And notice and nurture the shared desire that our vision statement sums up:

A loving community committed to spiritual exploration and to a safe and welcoming world.

This year, we are looking for a significant increase in the pledge results. We want to return to fully funding the maintenance and capital expenditures that had to be put off during the last few years of transition.

It's ambitious, we know. But if the congregation can increase the pledge base by 15%, we'll fund the new capital reserve fund as well as realistic estimated buildings and grounds maintenance needs and other modest program increases.

The Unitarian Universalist Association recommends congregants give between 2 and 5% of our net income to our church, beginning at the lower end and increasing it as our commitment and means grow:

1. If you feel the church is a significant part of your life and supports you and your family's spiritual growth, consider pledging 2% of your net income.
2. If the church is central to your identity, and you are committed to sustaining the programs, consider pledging 3% of your net income.
3. If you are committed to both the present and future growth, and the vitality of the

church, consider pledging 5% of your net income.

4. And if it feels important to you to give back at a very significant level as a joyful response of love and gratitude – a 10% tithe is recommended.

But another more heart-oriented way to approach the question of how much to pledge is this:

Make the pledge that feels like it *really matters* to you.

If you can easily afford a \$7,000 per year pledge, then stretch yourself to \$15,000 or whatever level feels like it really matters -- not to us, but to you. If your pledge has been \$700 and that was quite significant, but now your income has declined, drop your pledge to the amount that feels again significant, but *not* painful.

My grandmother was a Socialist, my father was a Marxist, and I suppose they influenced me despite my rebellious nature, because for the life of me I cannot think of a better approach to our relationship to this faith community than the slogan articulated so famously by Karl Marx –

From each according to his ability, to each according to his need.

See you in church!
Blessings,
Rev. Meg

2015-2016 Annual Fund Drive



We hope you will come be a part of our upcoming Commitment Sunday service on April 12. During this service, we will offer up our pledges and renew our shared commitment to this church and the principles that bind us together.

In preparation, we invite you to reflect on our reinvigorated First Parish and how it touches your life. Our purpose, our commitment is to be a truly loving community in which we can explore our spiritual understandings while working to make the world a safe and welcoming place. We are in the midst of discerning anew *how* we will nurture that purpose. But we know this: our church is a garden. In this garden, together, we plant, tend and harvest many gifts that will guide our personal journeys, provide sustenance for our spirits and nurture goodness in the web of life.

We ask you to think about these questions:

- Have you felt nourished by this loving community, perhaps in the fellowship of potluck suppers, chalice circles or book discussions groups? Or through the gift of meals, cards and caring conversation when you dealt with a life challenge?
- Have you felt encouraged in your personal search for meaning, supported and challenged in your growth as a person through our small groups, discussions, service opportunities and the worship services and sermons?
- Do you value the commitment we make to embrace all who come into our congregation and to help make the world beyond our doors safer and more welcoming through our Black

Lives Matter activities, our participation in NewLife Home Refurnishings, the Medfield Food Pantry, Family Promise and others?

Your financial support is vital. Our congregation is entirely responsible for funding the church's expenses. This year, looking to the future, in addition to the annual operating budget we will be reinstating a capital reserve commitment to prepare for funding capital needs of the next few years. This is an important goal, and one we are confident that your generous commitment can help us reach.

So please look at the enclosed pyramid chart and pie charts. We hope you can move up to a higher giving rung on the pyramid this year as we look to consolidate the financial foundation of this magnificent spiritual garden and continue to evolve in ways that will sustain our spirits and help heal our world. Whatever amount you give will be gratefully received.

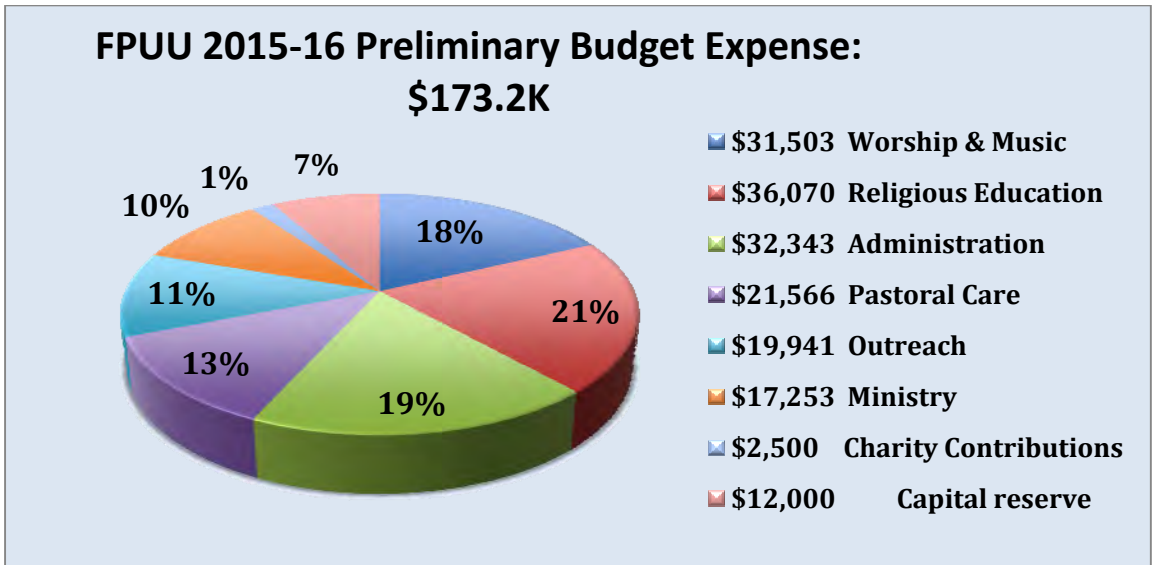
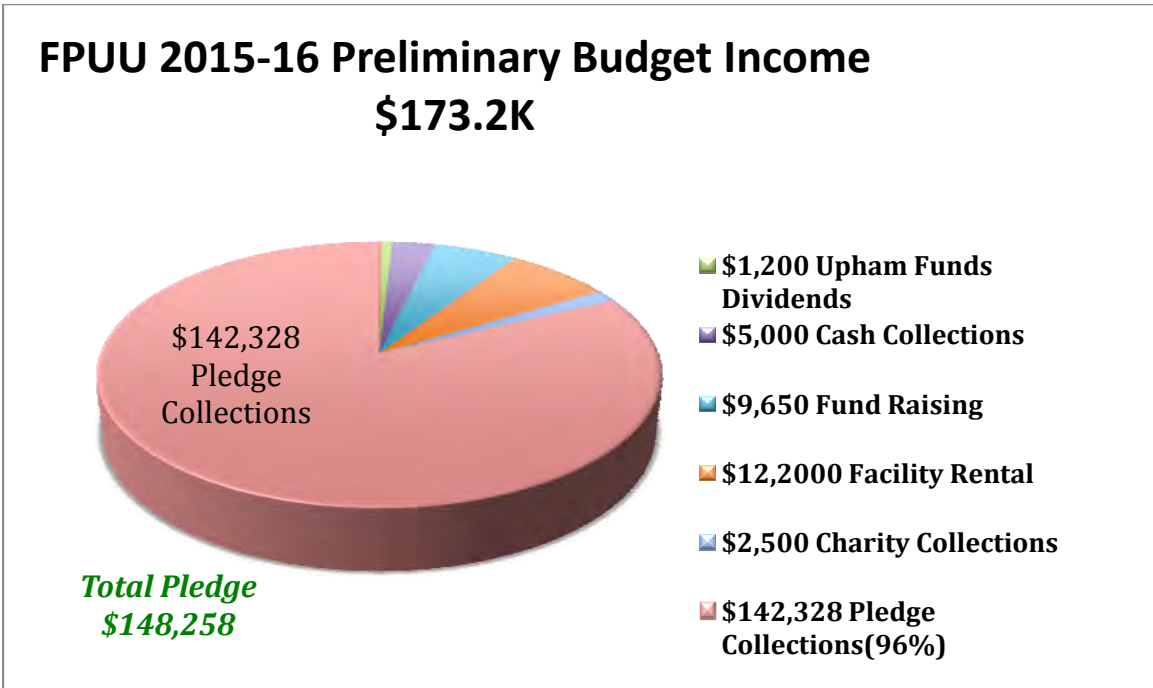
In the coming days, your fund drive leader will be contacting you about your financial pledge for 2015-16 and discuss any of your questions or concerns. And please accept our sincere thanks in advance for supporting our church community.

Fund Drive Committee: Mary Corthell, Chris Flaherty, Duncan Glover, Louise Rachin, and Marshall Sugarman

FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD PYRAMID GOALS 2015-16
59 PLEDGES FOR \$148,000
\$2,508 Average Pledge Amount

Pledge Amount	x	Number of Pledges	=	Tier Goal
\$15,000 +		2		\$30,000+
\$10,000 - \$14,999		2		\$20,000+
\$7,500 - \$9,999		3		\$22,500+
\$6,000 - \$7,499		3		\$18,000+
\$4,500 - \$5,999		3		\$13,500+
\$3,500 - \$4,499				\$17,500+
\$3,000 - \$3,499		5		\$15,000+
\$2,500 - \$2,999		8		\$20,000+
\$2,000 - \$2,499		6		\$12,000+
\$1,500 - \$1,999		6		\$ 9,000+
\$1,000 - \$1,499		6		\$ 6,000+
Up To \$1,000		10		\$ 5,000+





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.



From the Director of Religious Education

The Seven Promises of Unitarian Universalism

If you're new to Unitarian Universalism, and even if you're not, you might not know about the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. According to the by-laws of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, we as UU's affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

In Religious Education, and particularly in Spirit Play (the approach First Parish uses in its K-6 RE class), the Seven Principles are called "Promises." The first word of each promise starts with the same letter as the corresponding color of the rainbow. (This supposedly helps kids remember, but it works for adults too!)

1. **Respect** All People (**Red** Promise)
2. **Offer** kind and fair treatment to all (**Orange** Promise)
3. **Yearn** to Learn About Ourselves and Others (**Yellow** Promise)
4. **Grow** by Exploring What is True and Right (**Green** Promise)
5. **Believe** in our Ideas and Act on Them (**Blue** Promise)
6. **Insist** on Freedom, Justice, and Peace for all People (**Indigo** Promise)
7. **Value** our home, Earth, that we share with all living beings (**Violet** Promise)



Over the course of this year in RE, we've read stories related to these UU promises. Leo Lionni's "Frederick" helped us talk about the Red Promise. We used Kevin Henkes' "Weekend with Wendell" to focus on the Orange Promise. Janell Cannon's "Stella Luna" illustrated the Yellow Promise. We talked about the Green Promise most recently, with "Mouse at the Seashore," by Arnold Lobel. (We wonder, "Why do so many of our stories feature mice?")

In Spirit Play, we don't just read the stories; we try to tell them using visuals. Materials for telling each story are in individual baskets, and after the story has been told and discussed, kids can respond however they want, using art materials available in the classroom. They can even use the materials from the story, if they choose to. Whatever the story or the discussion or the moment inspires in them is ok, as long as they are doing something and letting other people do their own thing. Sometimes they work together, which is always welcomed.

Later this spring, First Parish will be sending four people to a Spirit Play training, so they can help facilitate RE in coming years. Three cheers for Jessica Razza, Leanne Harvey, Tina Behn, and Jackie Donahue! And of course, anyone who has heard one of my "Moments for All Ages" in worship this year has also experienced an important

element of Spirit Play, which is the "wondering questions" after the story. If you were in church the weekend after Christmas this past December, you also got to do Spirit Play as an adult, led by our own Sarah Zitoli.

I wonder if there's anything about Spirit Play that you'd like to know more about.

I wonder what you think of the Seven Promises of Unitarian Universalism.

I wonder which promise is most important to you personally.

I wonder if there's one you don't really understand.

I wonder if there's a way you could explore some of it further... in the pews, in the vestry, in the RE classroom, in conversations with one another....

--Alison Streit Baron



April OWL and Youth Group

- 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, April 12th and Sunday, April 19th.
- High School Our Whole Lives (HOWL) for grades 10-12 will meet in the Vestry from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM on Sunday, April 26th.
- Youth Group – There is no scheduled meeting at this time.

Another Successful Annual First Parish Indoor Yard Sale!

Thank you!

Thank you to all who had helped out or shopped at the yard sale on March 14th.



Our volunteers had great fun and we were able to make more than **\$1300** to help with maintenance of the Church!



Annual Pot-luck Passover Seder

Friday, April 3rd in the Vestry

5:30 PM



This is a celebration of the Israelites escape from slavery in Egypt - but it is also a celebration of the search for freedom for all people.

This is a family pot-luck and all are invited to attend and participate.

If you have questions, please contact Louise Rachin (lrachin@comcast.net) or Dan Bibel (dbibel@verizon.net).

If you plan to attend, please drop us a note so we can set enough places at the table.

Join our First Parish Medfield Team!



6th Annual **Walk Away Homelessness** Walkathon

On

Saturday April 11, 2015

Registration opens at 7:45am, Walk begins at 8:30AM

The 3.1 miles walk begins at the Natick Common (Intersection Rt. 27 & 135)

Come get some exercise, join the fun, and help raise funds for Family Promise Metrowest's Family Shelter and Transitional Housing Program.

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

If you would like to make a contribution or join our team (First Parish Medfield), please visit:

<https://www.gifttool.com/athon/SignUpMode?ID=1637&AID=2896>.

Contact Alison Galley for more information



Notes from the Executive Board

An Executive Board meeting was held on March 19, 2015



Financial Update:

FY 15 - at 72% through the fiscal year:

Pledges: \$82.9K (65%) out of \$127.7K (budget) collected

Fundraising: \$4.9K (51%) out of \$9.7K (budget) raised

Rentals: \$10.1K (92%) out of \$11K (budget) collected

Cash on hand (Rockland Trust Account): \$982

David Maxson gave us a report on the encroachment onto FPUU land (dumpsters have been on a section of our land for many years), and his discussion with the owner of the adjoining land. This issue first came to light when the New Education Center committee was looking at our land and its boundaries.

Fund Drive Committee: Duncan Glover gave us an update on the fund drive process and the “First Paris Open Mic Cabaret” event on Saturday, March 28. Thirteen fund-drive leaders will seek pledges from the congregation.

Nominating Committee: Julie Desorgher and Jen Bartle gave us an update on their work to fill three open positions on the Executive Board: Chair, Treasurer, and one at-large representative. All terms are for two years, with the possibility of serving a second term.

Budget Planning: The budget for Fiscal year 2016 was reviewed and approved. Mike forwarded the finalized budget to Duncan for his use in preparing the fund drive materials.

Our next board meeting will be Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 7:30pm.

Margaret Rolph
Executive Board Chair

SAVE THE DATE: May 21, 2015.

It's time for the **Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry ANNUAL MEETING!**

You are cordially invited to the 180th Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. Please join us for pre-meeting worship (optional), lunch, and program and business updates. Stay tuned for more info!

Notes from the Music Director

Eva Kendrick



I hope you will join us in May for *Operator*, a new, original musical I have written which will receive its World Premiere on the weekend of May 1-3, 2015 in the vestry at First Parish Medfield.

Operator is a two-act musical set in the late 1950s in Baltimore. In the first act, the story follows three young female telephone switchboard operators as they reach the apex of their careers. The second act shows how their lives are changed when they discover that the station may close permanently due to changes in telephone technology that render their jobs obsolete. The plot is framed in contemporary times by a woman who tells the story of the telephone operators to Bobby, a boy in the neighborhood whom she has hired to help clean out her house because she is retiring and moving away. When he discovers an old telephone operator headset in her belongings, he becomes curious and ventures away from the games on his cell phone long enough to make a real connection with his odd neighbor, who seems to have a special tie to the telephone operators in her story.

Against the backdrop of the 1950s and rural America is a colorful cast of characters who interact with the telephone operators. *Operator* provides a snapshot of American history in a less technologically complex time. The music of the opera is based on the popular music of the times: jazz, classical, and pop. The main message of *Operator* is the importance of true human connection, friendship, honesty, and trust. Just as Bobby and his neighbor become closer through their shared interest in the past, the operators learn to trust one another in an uncertain world. The main characters' bonds of friendship ultimately enable them to make positive changes that help them move on to the next stage of their lives.

Operator will feature FPUU Medfield members Shirley Riga, Becca and John Kornet, and other local Medfield residents and area performers. The shows are **May 1st and 2nd at 7:30 p.m., and May 3rd at 7 p.m.** Tickets are **\$20 and include refreshments**. There will be a bar as well with wine and champagne. Tickets may be purchased at www.ticketstage.com (look for First Parish Medfield) or by e-mailing me at music@firstparishmedfield.org. The show is fun and heart-warming and appropriate for all ages. The show runs approximately 90 minutes with an intermission. Our last fundraiser sold out quickly, so we recommend getting your ticket reservations in early!

We hope to see you at the show!

Best wishes,

Eva



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 – wwians@mac.com 508-660-1438

Julie DeSorger – juliedesorger@verizon.net 508-359-5413

Jen Bartle – jenbartle@hotmail.com 508-359-8876

Welcome, Harvey Family!

Please welcome new members Leanne and Bill Harvey and their children, Fiona and Grace, of Medfield.

Leanne and Bill were looking for a church to attend for their children but have found that their experience at First Parish has been so enriching for themselves too.

They love the music program in all its variety and appreciate Eva's multifaceted talent. Fiona and Grace love attending RE classes, and Leanne has found that helping with RE has given her a way to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and to answer the girls' deeper questions.

Leanne and Bill have also hosted coffee hour and find it is a good way to get to know others, as well as to contribute to the Sunday morning experience at First Parish.





Thank you to the following people for providing flowers for the sanctuary!

*Sarah Drumm, Mary Corthell and Pam Henderson.
(For the month of February)*

*Karen Mortimer, Ann Cunningham, Karen Wians,
Rebecca Stephenson and Louise Rachin.
(For the month of March)*

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. They can even be from your own garden. You can bring your flowers home with you after the service or give them to a special someone.

Please contact Rebecca Stephenson 508 740-0663 or rspt1@gmail.com

Medfield Farmers' Market to re-open on Thursday, June 4th!

We are pleased to announce that the Medfield Farmers' Market will be returning to the grounds of the First Parish for its 5th season!



The market will begin on Thursday, June 4th from 2:00 to 6:30 pm and continue each Thursday through September 24th.



Alison Galley and Eve Potts will be returning as Market Managers

Church Office Reminders

Sandra will be out of the office from April 16-April 24

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

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 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:

Juice boxes
Beef stew
Canned pears
Fruit cocktail

Macaroni and cheese
Kid-friendly cereal
Kitchen trash bags,
Four packs of toilet paper
Single rolls of paper towels

FPUU Calendar of Events for April

Friday, April 3	Annual Passover Seder/5:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, April 5	RE Committee Meeting/12:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, April 6	Medfield Historical Society Meeting/6-9:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 9	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15-9:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, April 12	JOWL Meeting/7-9:00 pm/U-House
Thursday, April 16	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, April 18	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day/8-12:00 pm
Sunday, April 19	Newsletter Deadline JOWL Meeting/7:00 pm/U-House
Tuesday, April 21	Committee on Shared Ministry Meeting/7:00 pm/Minister's office
Sunday, April 26	FPUU Book Club/11:30 am/U-House HOWL/7:00 pm/Vestry



Awake, thou wintry earth -
Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth
Your ancient gladness!
~Thomas Blackburn, "An Easter Hymn"