

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield, MA
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www.firstparishmedfield.org



October Newsletter 2014

From the Minister

Dear Friends,

Our faith community is experiencing the broad sweep of a community's shared life with the recent birth of Jess and Nate Razza's son, Benjamin, and the death of Shirley Riga's beloved daughter Lindsey. In the same span of days we mourn with one family, and share joy with another. This is what we promise to do as a faith home, to hold each person, each family in a loving embrace no matter what is happening.

And it serves as a powerful reminder of the ever-present interplay of life and death in our lives, of the reality that we were all born and we all will die, and everything we love, as well.

A poem came to my mind, one I would like to share with you.

"Peace my heart," by Rabindarnath Tagore

Peace, my heart, let the time for the parting be sweet.

Let it not be a death but completeness.

Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.

Let the flight through the sky end in the folding of the wings over the nest.

*Let the last touch of your hands be gentle like the flower of the night.
Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment, and say your last words in silence.
I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.*

If our coming together as a faith community can help us all find that peace, then what a gift we can be to each other.

May we all know that our coming in and our going out are blessed.

In faith,
Rev. Meg

Executive Board Notes

An Executive Board meeting was held on September 18, 2014.

Financial Update:

FY 15 - at 22% through the fiscal year:
Pledges: \$30.1K (23.6%) out of \$127.7K (budget) collected
Fundraising: \$.8K (8%) out of \$9.7K (budget) raised
Rentals: \$2K (18%) out of \$11K (budget) collected
Cash on hand (Rockland Trust Account): \$34K

Clerk Position: The board was pleased to welcome Darline Lewis, who has accepted the position of clerk until the end of the church year.

Mondays at UU Medfield: Plans are underway for four Mondays at UU Medfield over the course of the church year. The first will be October 20: a presentation led by Fritz Fleischmann of the Green Sanctuary Committee on proposals.

New Education Center Feasibility Task Force:

The New Education Center Committee was chartered by the Executive Board in 2012 "to request architects' quotations to provide the following: (1) an approximate cost estimate to raze the existing U-House and replace it with a new educational center; (2) preliminary design of the new center; and (3) an architectural rendering of the new center." Now there are questions to be addressed in terms of the size, cost and phase-in possibilities before embarking on a major capital campaign. The Board discussed a charter for a Capital Project Assessment Task Force to assess questions of financial feasibility and alternative building plans.

Vision - We agreed to meet Wednesday, October 1 at 7:30 in the U-house for a 2 hour discussion of a vision for the church, in order to work on goal #1 for the EB - "Develop a vision for the church, by the November EB meeting."

Margaret Rolph
Executive Board Chair

and discussing a lot of movies (a UU curriculum called "Popcorn Theology"), eating food, and talking about sex: in particular, Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 10th-12th graders. While many UU congregations offer 7th-9th grade OWL (as we will also, this year), fewer offer the high school class. So we will have at least one participant from a neighboring congregation.



There's also the possibility of going to a youth conference together later in the year.

Whatever happens will largely be because the teens make it happen. They will be taking responsibility for everything: bringing snacks and chalice lighting words, reserving space in the vestry, putting announcements in the newsletter, "liaising" with the Executive Board, making sure there are movies and some way to watch them. (They've already raised money to help FPUU purchase a projector!) They will have the opportunity to facilitate the group on different nights. Ideally, the adults will be there only in an advisory role (and to plunge the kitchen sink when it gets stopped up with spaghetti).

10th-12th grade OWL will meet once a month and Youth Group will also meet once a month. So every other Sunday at 7 pm, high school youth will be gathering at FPUU.

Please contact dre@firstparishmedfield.org for dates and other details.

Three cheers for FPUU youth!

--Alison Streit Baron

From the Director of Religious Education

FPUU Youth Group and High School OWL!

What do you get when you combine nine teenagers, four adults, and six boxes of pasta, put them in the kitchen at First Parish, and set a beautiful table with hand-picked flowers?

One burned pot, a delicious spaghetti dinner, and the beginning of some new high school youth offerings.



A few of us adults -- namely, Arnold Kalmbach, Sarah Zitoli, Cissy Hull-Allen and I -- invited kids to come make dinner with us (really *for* us) and tell us what they want to do under the heading of "youth group" this year.

So far it looks like the group will be watching



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BREAKFAST

FOR ALL VISITING, NEW, AND RETURNING FAMILIES

WITH CHILDREN

RE TEACHERS AND FACILITATORS ALSO WELCOME.



On Sunday, October 5th

9:00 am

In the Vestry

Hosted by the RE Committee

RSVP to Alison, dre@firstparishmedfield.org.

Offerings for High School Age People



Our Whole Lives for 10-12th graders will meet every month. This sexuality education curriculum is facilitated by trained adults and is open to our congregation and our larger community. The sessions are Sundays at 7:00 pm starting on September 28th. There is a parent orientation on September 28th at 6 pm.

Our Whole Lives for 7-9th grade age youth will meet 2-3 times a month. This sexuality and spirituality curriculum, first offered at First Parish 10 years ago, provides our young people with the tools and information to "live their values." Starting Sunday, October 26th at 7:00 pm with a parent orientation on October 19th.

OWL is open to the community.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group for grades 10-12, will also meet monthly, alternating with OWL. The Group has chosen "popcorn theology" as a main focus.



Specific movies will be viewed and discussed for their spiritual content. During Medfield Day, our youth and their friends raised \$650 for an HD projector for First Parish and especially for popcorn theology!

Farmers' Market Closed for the Season on September 25th

Alison Galley and Eve Potts would like to thank the members who have so graciously put signs out on their lawns, volunteers who have helped out and all of you who have supported the 2014 Medfield Farmers' Market this year.

Special thanks to Eve Potts and Alison Galley who have done a wonderful job as Market Managers and CB Doub who did a fantastic job with publicity. The Market would not have been possible without the efforts of both of you.



Notes from the Music Director Eva Kendrick



I am excited to announce that I will be writing a monthly music-related column for the church newsletter this year. I was inspired by my experiences

in the Music Leadership Certification Program (MLCP) to make this one of my yearly goals.

Last year, I conducted an online Music Survey for one of my MLCP courses. About 30% of members at FPUU Medfield responded, and I found the answers fascinating and inspiring, so I wanted to share these survey results with you for my first newsletter article.

I had asked for your favorite hymns. The favorite hymns were the ones set to the Finlandia tune ("We Would Be One" and "This Is My Song") which ranked first, "Spirit of Life" which was second, and "Dark of Winter" and "Blue Boat Home" which tied for third. With typical UU independent spirit, there were 20 hymns with only one vote apiece. There was a preference for familiar hymns, and one or two members suggested practicing the hymns before the service or a hymn sing-along.

When polled what style of music members would like to hear included more in services, most people indicated jazz/blues followed by folk music and classical. Most were happy with the current

balance of organ and piano. Most respondents said they would like to hear the choir sing during services more often. Some of the favorite choir anthems included pieces I have written, "Shalom Chevarim" and "Sing We Now of Christmas."

Musical fundraisers topped the musical event list with 20 votes, and a musical Coffee House was second with 14 votes. For concerts at FPUU Medfield, a Guest UU Musician or Folk Group was preferred (14 votes each), a jazz concert or a cappella concert second (12 votes), a pianist/organist third (11 votes), and classical or cabaret/showtunes fourth (10 votes).

The topic of how people preferred to experience the prelude and postlude has come up during several Worship & Music Committee meetings, but I don't know that a formal poll has ever been conducted before this quiz. A slight majority of respondents (11 people) voted that everyone should be free to come and go as they please; 10 people preferred moments of quiet reflection after the service, and 5 voted for quiet reflection before the service.

Some of my conclusions about the survey are as follows: we are a very independent-minded congregation with many different opinions and tastes in music. We know that respect and consideration is due to others but we enjoy freedom as well. We enjoy familiarity in hymns, and many of us do not feel confident as singers but

would not mind stretching our boundaries a bit in a comfortable setting.

There were quite a number of kind comments in appreciation of the music I provide at First Parish, and there were many thoughtful comments on each topic. I greatly appreciate the time and effort it took for you to respond, and I hope to be able to incorporate many of your suggestions in the services. Don't be surprised if you come in to a jazz prelude on the piano or if you are invited to a hymn sing-along. I value all of your input and hope that in reading this you will come to learn a little more about one another as well.

I hope you have found the results of this survey interesting. If you have a particular topic you would like me to address in my music-related column, please feel free to e-mail me at eva@evakendrick.com. Thank you!



Medfield Day Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped make Medfield Day a great time. Special kudos to the Youth Group that organized and staffed a very successful henna & tattoo table!





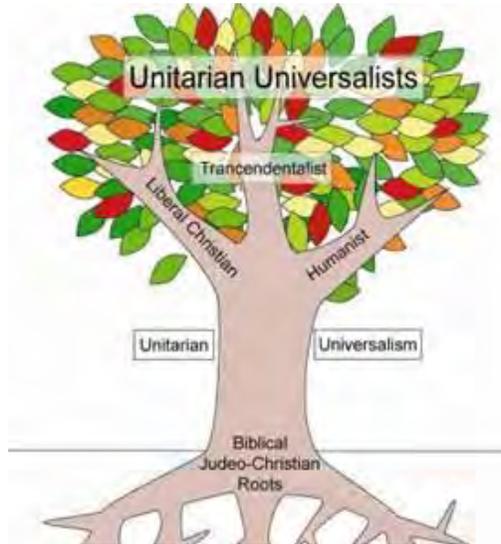
You're Invited to
Help Spruce Up the U-House (part 2)

OCTOBER 12
Noon until 3:00

Come help spruce up the U-House again – it still needs work!
Painting inside and outside, windows, there's plenty to do.

Rev. Meg will supply pizza and paint,
you supply skills, time and care!

UU Basics Class



Sunday, October 19, 11:30-3:00

Light lunch included.

Babysitting available- RSVP to Rev. Meg at minister@firstparishmedfield.org.

Especially for newer folks, but all are welcome.

**Come learn about the history and faith of Unitarian Universalism, this church,
and what membership means.**



October 25th Potluck- Save the Date!

The Worship and Music Committee will be sponsoring a potluck supper on Friday, October 25th starting at 6:00 PM.



Come join us for some Halloween fun! Bring a dish to share and wear a costume if you would like! Extra credit if you can dress up as a famous UU...Get ready for a kids costume parade around the Vestry, awards for best Halloween-themed dish, and - most importantly - a great chance to get together and connect with old friends and get to know new ones better.



From the New Education Center Committee



The New Education Center Committee met on Monday September 22, 2014 to review Architect David Sharff's ongoing work, and to establish next steps to complete his work. Mr. Sharff's proposal in two phases is given as follows:

Phase 1: Programming:

- Work with planning representatives from First Parish Medfield to develop the current needs assessment and then translate that into a final working document of space usage, room size and required adjacencies.
- Site Plan Review – check compliance with Town of Medfield bylaws.

Deliverables:

- Site plan and approximate building footprint to scale.
- Up to 3 planning meetings with First Parish Medfield
- Draft a written/graphic program

Fee: \$1,800

During Phase 1, which was completed in June 2013, it was confirmed that First Parish owns two-thirds of the land behind the church.

Phase 2: Preliminary Design

Deliverables:

- Floor plans and exterior renderings, drawn to scale indicating proposed exterior materials
- Prepare approximate budget estimate.
- Preparation of final master plan.

Fee: \$5,000

To date, two alternative plans for the New Education Center have been prepared. Thanks to generous donations from members of the Congregation, sufficient funds have already been raised to execute both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Mr. Sharff's work.

Plan 1 and Plan 2

The two alternative plans (Plan 1 and Plan 2) are shown below, wherein each is approximately 6000 square feet in size, at an estimated cost of approximately \$300/square foot. These plans have been prepared to meet the following objectives:

- (1) Meets the needs of our present Members and Friends as well as the needs of future Members and

Friends for generations to come.

- (2) Is Barrier Free, so that all of our Members and Friends have access, regardless of their abilities or disabilities.
- (3) Is Energy Efficient and Green, to be commensurate with the goals of our Green Sanctuary Committee.
- (4) Meets the needs of our current minister and staff in support of our Mission, and will attract future ministers and staff.
- (5) Is Architecturally Commensurate with the Church Building and other structures in the Historic District

Next Steps

The Executive Board is now organizing a Capital Project Assessment Task Force, whose purpose includes the evaluation of fund raising potential and financing mechanisms to determine what the Congregation can reasonably afford, should it decide to move forward with a Capital Campaign and subsequent construction of the New Education Center.

The New Education Center Committee looks forward to the Capital Project Assessment Task Force's evaluation and recommendations. Once received, the Committee will work with David Sharff to finalize the Phase 2 Preliminary Design for presentation to the Congregation.

The Committee welcomes your questions, comments, and feedback regarding plans for the New Education Center. Please contact Duncan Glover (duncanglover@comcast.net).

Respectfully,

New Education Center Committee: Dan Bibel, Duncan Glover, David Maxson, Chris Conley, Sarah Zitoli & Bill Wians

Living the Welcoming Congregation Sunday Service -November 2nd



The Living the Welcoming Congregation Task Force is excited to get started with sermons, workshops, and activities to promote discussion and education around issues affecting the LGBTQ community.

Our first such event will be a Sunday service on November 2nd, where we'll talk about what it can feel like to be part of a marginalized group. We hope to see you there!

Among Ourselves

It is with great sadness that I share with you all the news that Shirley Riga's daughter, Lindsey, passed away on September 19 after her long, long struggle with liver disease. I know our loving thoughts are with Shirley now. Cards can be sent to her at 139R Harding Street, Medfield MA 02052.

Lindsey's Memorial Service will be held in Westfield where she lived. All are invited to caravan out and be part of the service. More details to follow.



We are happy to welcome Jess and Nate's new son, Benjamin, to our community!

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 8:00-2:00

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. Go to our website www.firstparishmedfield.org and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!



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



- Peanut butter
- Jelly (no grape please)
- Cookies
- Juice - boxes and jugs
- Canned chicken
- Pasta sauce
- Canned pasta

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

Special thanks to Evan Springer who is the coordinator for our church this year.





FPUU Calendar of Events

Wednesday, October 1	Vision Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Thursday, October 2	COM/7:00 pm/Minister's Office
Sunday, October 5	RE Breakfast/9:00 am/Vestry RE Meeting/12:00 pm/Vestry
-Monday, October 6	Medfield Historical Society Meeting/Vestry/6:00 pm
Thursday, October 9	Worship & Music Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Sunday, October 12	U-House Spruce Up Day/12:00-3:00 pm/U-House
Monday, October 13	Columbus Day/Office Closed
Thursday, October 16	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, October 19	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary UU Basics Class/11:30-3:00/Vestry OWL Parent Orientation/7:00 pm/Vestry Newsletter Deadline
Saturday, October 25	Worship & Music Potluck Dinner/6:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, October 26	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary OWL Begins/7:00 pm/Vestry