

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield,
MA

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www.firstparishmedfield.org

*The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints the
buds and swells the leaves within.*

~William C. Bryant



February 2016 Newsletter

From the Minister

Being part of a faith community that is a living organism is a huge gift on our lives, but churches have seasons just as the land and air around us do. We tend to schedule fewer activities in the deep of winter, for example, because storms are so unpredictable then and getting around, harder. Longfellow described New England in February pretty accurately many years ago --

*"The day is ending,
The night is descending;
The marsh is frozen,
The river dead.*

*Through clouds like ashes
The red sun flashes
On village windows
That glimmer red."*

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Afternoon in
February**

No one is moving gladly in that afternoon! And yet... good news: in our faith community, Spring is already on the march, and green shoots are poking up all over the place. These sprouts are wonderful signs of things to come.

For one thing, the monthly coffee house tradition is being revived with great energy -- reimagined as a spoken word effort with an anchor storyteller and slots for people to sign up for sharing their own story or poem. Starting this month, the fourth Saturdays will be a lot of fun for us!

Then, there's the family friendly movie night on the second Friday of each month, starting this month as well. More fun for our community!

Additionally, small suppers are being planned now to start up again this spring. These are great chances for congregants to have a potluck dinner with maybe 6-7 other people at someone's home. It's a wonderful way to get to know other congregation members better, and to connect more deeply into our larger faith community. This will be fun, too!

In addition, the annual fund drive people have come up with some new ideas about our pledge drive – and that's going to be engaging for us, as well.

All these different signs of energy are wonderful in February, and speak of the life that is flourishing in

the garden that is our faith community. Such a community -- where we know each other and care about each other and are willing to risk being the absolutely best person we can be -- is a huge gift and resource as we live our lives. Such connection anchors us and helps us grow, learn to give better, and to recover in the face of life's challenges when we need to do so. With such loving community as our anchor, we can do what Barbara Kingsolver noted we need to do in times of personal challenge, we can 'like a stroke victim retraining new parts of the brain to grasp lost skills, teach ourselves joy, over and over again.'

It's heartening to see these emerging energies pushing through our February soil. And here's to joy, and being able to relearn it, over and over again!

Blessings,
Rev. Meg



Building and Grounds News....

The Building and Grounds committee is pleased to announce that Newman Brothers Painting will be doing some badly needed painting at First Parish. They'll start this week with the Sanctuary ceiling, particularly the water damaged portion. Then they'll paint the Vestry and kitchen, bathrooms and hallway up to the Sanctuary. Dave Newman was the kind soul who painted the U House for us as a gift.

The colors will remain the same.

The work should be finished in about a week!

Notes from the Executive Board



Dear Friends:

The Executive Board had its first meeting of the year on January 21. Duncan Glover,

chair of the Annual Fund Drive Committee, joined us to discuss plans and event dates for this year's annual fund drive. Saturday evening, March 12, will be the date for the annual fund drive dinner and evening of entertainment. Please put it on your calendar, and stay tuned!

Several great initiatives have begun to take shape since the beginning of the year: Margaret Rolph and Jessica Razza are coordinating the "small supper" evenings announced for this winter (look forward to hearing from them!); a series of family-friendly movie nights (complete with popcorn -- and babysitting at the U-House!) is being kicked off on Friday, February 12, and a new version of the First Parish Coffeehouse, called "Espresso Yourself," will have its first run on February 27. There is a lot of life at First Parish this winter! (More details are about to be communicated by the organizers.)

The Executive Board also approved a significant painting project: not only will the water-scarred

portion of the sanctuary ceiling



Are you missing something?

There are several articles left behind in the Vestry. A Medfield baseball sweat shirt, a men's scarf, a white sweater, a cloth bag with a t-shirt in it and various dishes left over from our church functions.

All items are presently displayed in the vestry on the counter next to the kitchen.

be restored to its pristine condition, but the vestry with its hallway, the kitchen, both bathrooms, and the narthex will also be repainted, to greet all our members, friends, and visitors with a fresher, more welcoming look. I hope that many of you will be able to admire the result before long.

See you in church!
Fritz

For our Young People



Here's what's happening in February:

COA (Coming of Age) for grades 9-10 meets in the vestry from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm.

There will not be a

meeting on 2/7 (some big event is on tv - we'll meet 1/31 instead). The next meeting will be an M&M meeting (mentors and mentees) at 7pm on 2/21.

HOWL will meet on 2/28. PERY (Positive Educators Reaching Youth) speakers will be joining us on 2/28 to talk about being HIV+, PrEP regimen and their hopes for the future.

Youth Group will meet on 2/14. An overnight will be held on 3/5 in the vestry. Sunday, February 21st.

Hello again from the Committee on Shared Ministry or COSM.

As we mentioned last month, the two primary purposes of our Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) are:

- To foster a healthy and supportive church environment through direct, open communication
- To help the people and committees involved in our different ministries in a supportive, future oriented self-assessment process.

In pursuit of these goals we are planning to help the committees of the church in a process of self-assessment to examine and report how they are actually functioning in relation to their objectives and the church's mission. We plan to pilot this process with two committees over the course of this year.

In addition to this role we are also considering how we can help to address two themes that presented themselves at the brainstorming sessions for our new mission statement; increasing our ability to handle conflict and finding better ways to accept our differences. To accomplish this, we are exploring opportunities for our church community to work on these topics in workshops or through other learning materials.

We are still in a discovery mode and ask for your help in making this happen.

Your thoughts on what is important and how to approach it are most welcome and appreciated.



You can reach us in person or at

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David Temple-

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Green Sanctuary Committee

First Parish is continuing on its path to reduce its carbon footprint and to educate people about the necessity to do so. During December, the lights in the Sanctuary were replaced with LED bulbs. Committee members continued to hand out anti-idling flyers. We also want to help facilitate Medfield in joining 155 other MA towns as a Green Community which will provide \$148,000 in energy improvement grants to the town. The Medfield Energy Committee is encouraging community groups to attend the April Town Meeting to help approve the necessary steps. Medfield will be starting a solar farm in February. If you want more information, contact Thea Iberall theaiberall@yahoo.com.



You're Invited!

Join us in watching a family friendly
movie on

Friday, February 12th

**(Stay tuned - time and movie
to be determined)**

**A fun evening with popcorn and fruit
drinks provided!**



First Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse is Saturday, February 27th!

Do you have a poem to share, a story to tell, a song to sing? Or would you just love to come in from the cold as poets, storytellers and singer songwriters entertain you on a chilly night? We are reviving a FPUU tradition on the last Saturday of every month with the Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse.

There are lots of spoken word opportunities in Boston, but only a few in the MetroWest area, and none near Medfield. FPUU is changing that! We invite adults and teens to join in during open mic (5 minute limit) or just come to listen and enjoy while sipping a hot coffee and sampling a yummy treat!

Starting at 7pm, each event will have a different theme.
On February 27th the Espresso Yourself theme is "Ah, Youth!"



Our feature performer is the wonderful storyteller Bruce Marcus. Bruce wows audiences with his original stories and crowd-pleasing rhyming tales. He has performed at Boston First Night Festival, The New England Folk Festival, Three Apples, Granite State Storytelling Festivals and many others. Bruce is the 2013 story slam winner at Sharing the Fire: The Northeast Storytelling Conference. He is also the coordinator for Story Space in Cambridge, MA.

Come and join Bruce and share your story, poem or song too!

Suggested donation is \$5; students \$3.

For more information, contact Linda Finkle lindainwinthrop@gmail.com

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
COME TO THE FIRST PARIS OPEN MIC CABARET!!



FIRST PARISH ANNUAL FUND DRIVE EVENT
SATURDAY MARCH 12, 6:30 PM

**SING OR PLAY A SONG... RECITE A POEM...TELL A STORY...
OR JUST LISTEN & ENJOY BUT...
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 3/1 with number of attendees to 508-528-8456 or 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 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

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:
Kid friendly cereal
Juice - large and boxes

Canned 6 pks of fruit cocktail and peaches

Pasta sauce

Cookies

Salty snacks/crackers

Household cleaners

Laundry detergent

Plastic wrap

Aluminum foil

**** Thanks to the generosity of our community we are FULLY stocked with dry pasta and soups at this time!**

FPUU Calendar of Events for February

Monday, February 1	Medfield Historical Society Meeting/6-9 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 2	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/U-House
Tuesday, February 9	Brown Bag Lunch/12:00 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, February 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Friday, February 12	Family Friendly Movie Night/Vestry
Sunday, February 14	Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House Youth Group/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 16	COSM/7:00 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, February 18	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, February 20	NewLife Home Refurnishings/Volunteer Day
Sunday, February 21	Newsletter Deadline Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/2:00 pm/Vestry COA/7:00 pm/U-House
Saturday, February 27	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, February 28	HOWL/7:00 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