

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



*“And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's
dark breast rose from the dreams of its
wintry rest.” ~ Percy Bysshe Shelley*

April 2016 Newsletter

From the Minister

Dear FPUU members and friends,

As you may have read in my last Minister's Message, I am resigning from the ministry here as of the end of this church year. I'd like to share some thoughts about the period ahead of us.

It will be a time of transition. Both you and I will experience a mix of emotions, and it will be good for us to acknowledge them. Like some of you, I too will grieve losses to come during this period, and celebrate joys as well.

Whatever our emotions, though, over the course of the next three months we will be saying 'thank you' and 'goodbye' to each other. And some of us will be also saying 'I'm sorry', and, 'you are forgiven'. These are the tasks of a good, healthy leave-taking. For a true leave-taking it will be: after I leave, I cannot be in touch with you. Those are the established ethics of the ministry in which I serve.

Easter's place in the natural world helps me think about this process. It is a wonderful time filled with signs of life reawakening; daffodils and

crocuses have popped out nearby, and forsythia tips are turning yellow. Soon, a wave of green will roll across the land around us. My leaving will be a chance for the church to begin to reflect on its life and ministries again, to ponder what needs to be let go and what should be 'greened up'.

Easter's symbolism is apt as well, for it is a day when someone who had been killed is celebrated as having, in some way, come alive again. It reminds us that what dies doesn't just die but transforms into something else, related and similar, but also different. A church and its' minister are a unity, a kind of whole. And when the minister leaves, that whole is changed. The old unity dies and a new unity will arise in good time,

as another minister comes and congregation and minister work together again.

Whether you are sad I am leaving, or feel it is a good thing, or have a mix of feelings, I hope we will all have a good ending. And that means one guided by honesty, acknowledgment and most of all love. Such an ending allows us to move in due course into the next stage of our lives, open and ready to begin again. I invite you to come and talk with me about these things, or anything else, as we go through the next three months together.

Many blessings,
Rev. Meg

Notes from the Executive Board



Dear Members and Friends:

At the March 17 meeting of the Board, we discussed the

resignation of Rev. Meg Soens, which was received with great regret. The Board expressed its gratitude to Rev. Meg for the many gifts she has brought to First Parish during her tenure. The Board also discussed and authorized a letter to the congregation, which was sent out on March 18.

The Board voted to apply to the UUA for an interim minister, and appointed a subcommittee to serve as an Interim Taskforce. Our thanks belong to Darline Lewis, Richard Mastronardi and Margaret Rolph for their willingness to serve on this subcommittee.

We also discussed Rev. Meg's suggestion that the Black Lives banner be taken down for temporary storage, and the Board voted in favor of doing so.
March 16, 2016

This does not mean that our commitment to racial justice is diminished, nor does it mean that this banner will never be displayed again. Our discussion will continue: what are the best ways for our congregation to advocate for social justice, and to engage in positive social action? And what are the best ways for us to communicate on important issues? In a time of transition, questions of who we are, how we act, and how we signify must be addressed, as we seek to chart our future.

I urge you to support our community with renewed vigor. There are not enough trained and interested interim ministers available to serve the needs of our denomination, so our application will have to be competitive. The outcome of our annual fund drive will decide, among other things, how well-positioned we are to attract a qualified interim minister.

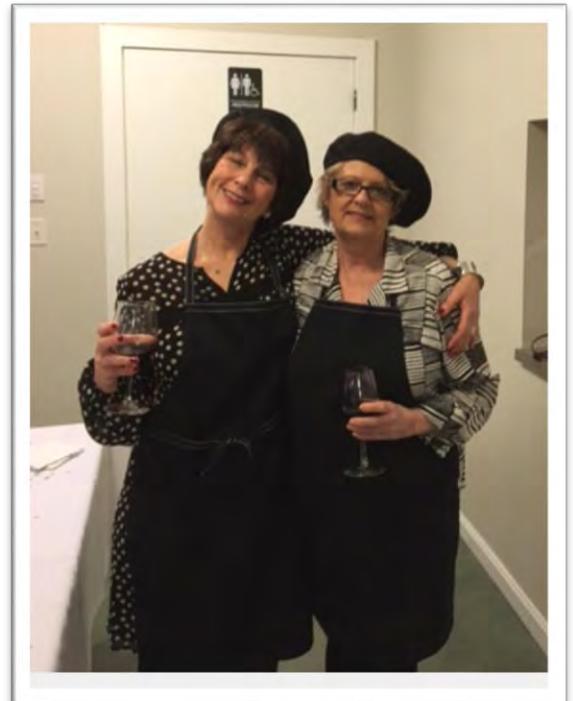
Thank you for being part of our community.

Fritz



Some Photos from the First Paris Open Mic Cabaret

Annual Fund Drive Event Held on Saturday, March 12th





Notes from the Music Director



Thoughts on Congregational Singing

So you've had your morning coffee and dashed out the door to church on Sunday morning. The prelude is ending, and it's time to sing the first hymn. As you open your hymnal and clear your throat, what are you thinking about? Are you hoping your pew neighbors won't hear you because you don't think you can sing? Are you suddenly noticing how dry and scratchy your throat feels? Are you skimming ahead to see if you like or agree with the words (an oft-told joke in UU services and conferences)? Is your mind present or far away?

When I first took the course on Leading Congregational Singing at the UUMN Conference last year, I have to admit, I was a little nervous. I knew it meant that I would have to rethink my approach to doing what I have been so comfortable doing for many years—leading hymns “from the piano.” In a small church like ours, with an “all-in-one” Music Director (pianist/organist/choir director), this is not uncommon. I have been comfortable with this because my voice carries easily in the room, and playing the piano, which I am very comfortable doing, allows me to give melodic and harmonic support at the same time. However, it also prevents me from singing directly to or with the congregation and engaging as much as I could if I was not also accompanying.

I have performed in public since age five and sung in churches since age fourteen, so although

performing has always been second-nature to me, I always thought of singing in church from the point of view of the musician, rather than the congregation. I never really stopped to ponder what I personally was giving or receiving or what everyone in the room might be receiving from one another as they sang. After taking this course and completing several assignments, I have written a short prose poem I wanted to share with you which illustrates my thoughts on what congregational singing means to me.

WHEN WE SING...

*When you sing in church
You share yourself
Whether you call yourself a singer or not
Whether you sing all the notes or not
Whether you know the song or not,
You share yourself with everyone else.*

*When I sing in church
I invite you to join with me
to feel connected to your breath
to feel connected to everyone else
And if you feel this way,
I hope you'll sing with me again.*

*When we sing in church
We give and receive from one another
We learn more about ourselves and others
We realize there is no one right way to sing a song,
And all our voices are heard.*

Most music you ever hear will always contain some beautiful imperfections.

Fondly,
Eva Kendrick Music Director,
First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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. This year First Parish members will cast votes for four positions: Vice Chair, Communications Clerk, and two At-Large representatives. All terms are for two years, with the possibility of serving a second term.

We would like to encourage engagement at all levels of Church leadership; thus, if you are interested in serving on one of our committees

(see: <http://www.firstparishmedfield.org/cms/aboutusmenu/committees>), please be in touch with the current chair directly.

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

Serving on the Executive Board or 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,

Jen Bartle [jenbartle@gmail.com]

Julie DeSorgher [julie.desorgher@verizon.net]

Here's what's happening with our Young People...



COA (Coming of Age) for grades 9-10 meets in the vestry from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. We will meet on Sunday, April 3rd and 17th. Please note location change for April 3rd. Due to a scheduled recital in the Vestry, COA will meet in the U-House on this date only.

HOWL (High school Our Whole Lives sexuality program) **for grades 11-12:** Meets on the 4th Sunday of the month. HOWL will be meeting on Sunday, April 24th at 7:00 pm in the Vestry.

Youth Group for Grades 11-12: The Youth Group typically meet on the second Sunday of the month. Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, April 10th at 7:00 pm in the Vestry.

COA

The Coming of Age group is very busy, between meeting with mentors, going to the MFA (a great trip led by Bill Wians) to explore religious representation in art, and exploring spirituality, faith, and personal beliefs. Recently, as one of their areas of inquiry, the group met with members of several committees at First Parish who talked about why it's important to them to give back to our church.



Youth Group

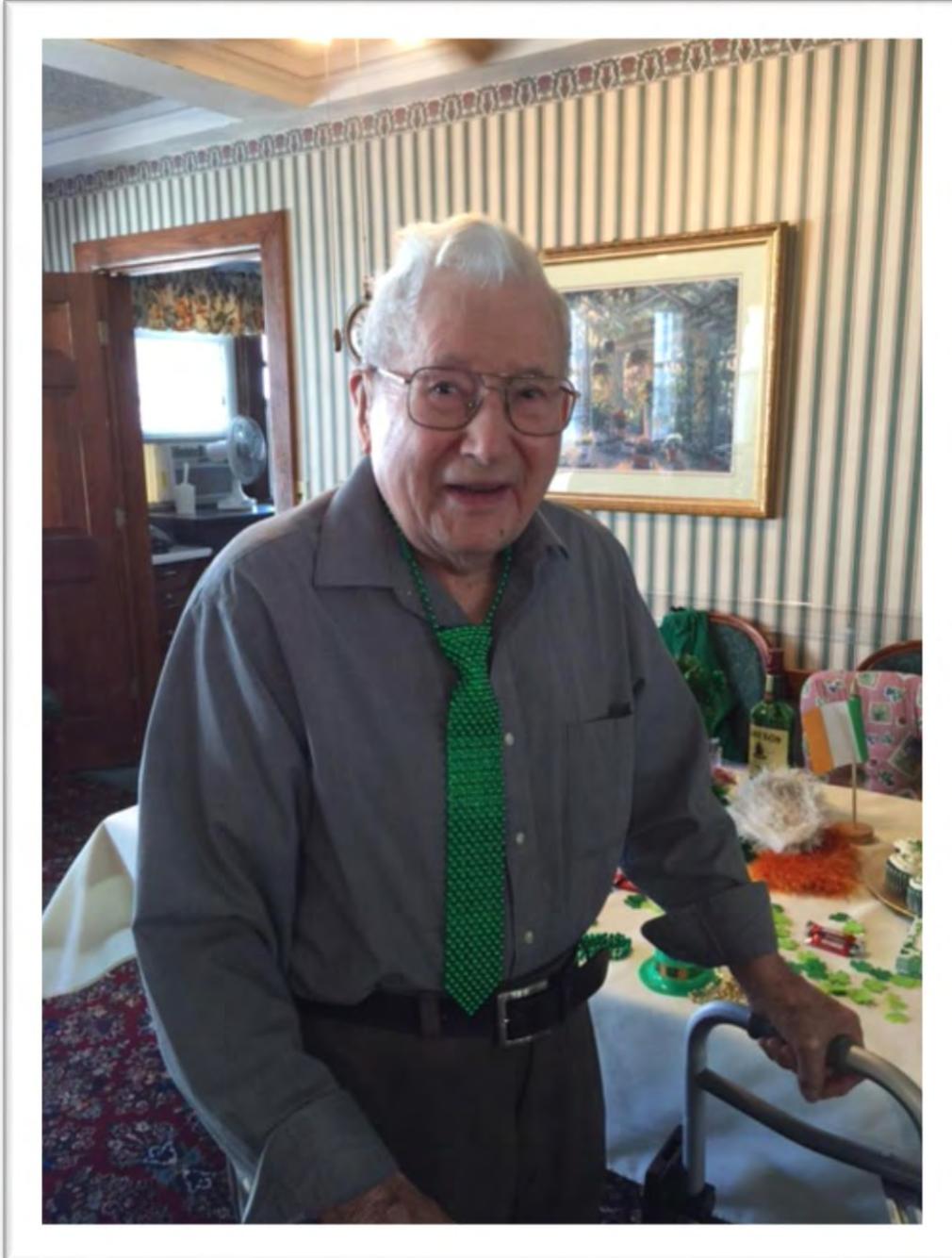
The Youth group used some of the funds they raised at Medfield Day to enrich our Little Lights area. New markers, paper, other supplies, toys and puzzles were purchased one evening in March, followed by a pasta dinner and sleepover in the vestry. Our Youth Group includes young people from First Parish, the Medfield Episcopalian church, and the Sharon UU church.



HOWL

The High school Our Whole Lives group welcomed two PERY speakers in March. These Positive Educators Reaching Youth spoke of becoming HIV+ and living with the disease. It was very powerful, and more than one person shed a few tears. The speakers are living successful lives, and encourage awareness in education, prevention, and acceptance.

Among Ourselves



Long time church member (63 years!) Howard Kane –
celebrating St. Patrick's Day

First Parish GIANT Indoor YARD SALE



**Saturday, April 9th
9:00 am-1:00 pm**

**DROP-OFF DONATIONS:
FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 4:00 – 8:00 PM**

This Year's Features:

- **Early drop-off:** Bring your items to the Vestry (28 North St. Medfield) as early as **Sunday, April 3**, and leave in the designated section or call Sandra in the church office at 508-359-4594 to arrange pick-up.
- **Friday night drop-off:** Age-appropriate **HAPPY HOUR!** Wine & cheese, light beverages and snacks (starting at 4:00 PM, Friday, April 8).

Reminders:

- **We accept (in good condition):** antiques, collectables, small furniture, 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, large appliances.
- **PLEASE** nothing broken, incomplete, or unsellable!

Help Still Needed:

- **Spread the word** via the internet and social media accounts! (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- **Post flyers** in central locations. (For flyers, email Katrin: MedfieldYardSale@gmail.com)
- **Create large yard sale signs.**
- One week before: We need bags, boxes, and packing materials.
- Friday evening (4/8): We need an E-Bay researcher with handheld device to explore donations online and help us set aside valuable items for special sale.
- After sale: We need someone to manage online sale of special items.



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

* * *

QUESTIONS?

SUGGESTIONS?

DONATIONS?

Email Katrin at MedfieldYardSale@gmail.com or leave a message with Sandra in the church office: 508-359-4594.





SMALL SUPPERS

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

There is still plenty of time to respond for the SMALL SUPPERS event Saturday evening, April 9. And, it is EASY!

Easy to host: Pot-luck - You can choose to be a host or an attendee. As a host, you provide the place and tableware. The guests will bring dishes to share. Generally, a maximum of 6 people, including the host(s) at a house. As for the time, 6:30 is suggested, but as a host, you set the start/end time.

Easy to attend: You bring a dish to share, and baby-sitting will be available at the U-house, so you can drop children off at the U-house on your way.

Easy to RSVP : Email Margaret at merolph@verizon.net or call her at 508-641-3251 — OR Email Jessica Razza jessicarazza@aol.com
Specify whether you'd like to be an attendee or a host and we will assign attendees to hosts.



UU Mass Action Advocacy Day

When: Tuesday April 12, 10 AM to 4:00 PM
Where: Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St, Boston



UU Mass Action Advocacy Day is a great way to interact with your state

elected officials and to learn about key legislation under consideration. The morning features speakers on the legislation and takes place at Arlington St. Church; the afternoon is at the State House, where you visit with your state representative and senator to advocate for the legislation. If you register in advance (at www.UUMassaction.org), appointments will be made for you with your representatives.

Our keynote speaker will be [Senate President Stan Rosenberg](#) D-Amherst. Senator Rosenberg is a champion on many of our core social justice campaigns. He was unanimously elected to the position of Senate President in January 2015.

This will be an important opportunity for advocacy on our four core issues: Immigrant Rights, Ending Mass Incarceration, Economic Justice and Climate Change. The current legislative session ends July 31st. We will need to work hard to have our priority bills pass into law!

Following the keynote address, participants will break into their issue groups and be briefed on the bills we will advocate for at the State House. Lunch will be provided before we depart for the State House at 12:45 PM.

Transportation to the State House will be available if you have mobility limitations.

Let me know if you have questions or are considering attending.

Margaret Rolph
merolph@verizon.net 508-641-3251

The Green Sanctuary Committee



The Green Sanctuary Committee has been persistently spreading the word about the Massachusetts anti-idling law. Working with a high school science teacher, we have given prizes to students who are creating anti-idling graphics. We've been encouraging high school students and younger kids to get involved (and tell their parents!). A video by the students was created as well, and notices are going out to the schools. If you want to see it, contact me and I'll send you the link.

We are encouraging people to attend the April 25 Medfield Town Meeting to help approve steps so that Medfield can become a Massachusetts Green Community. If we do, we'll join 155 other MA towns trying to reduce their carbon footprint. This all important step is just part of the local actions that are beginning to escalate – stopping our use of dirty fuels is critical to the health of our children, ourselves, and our planet. There are lots of ways to get informed; come to our monthly meeting or get on our mailing list.



Thea Iberall, Ph.D.

Family Movie Night – April 15

Join us in watching a family friendly movie on
Friday, April 15th – Starts at 7:00 pm!



This month's feature Mamma Mia!

"On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings 3 men from her mother's past back to the Greek island paradise they last visited 20 years ago. The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, and every night everyone's having the time of their lives! Over 60 million people around the world have fallen in love with the characters, story and music. Starring Meryl Streep. Nominated for Golden Globes, Grammys, BAFTA, Tonys." 1 hr 48 min. PG-13

A fun evening with popcorn and fruit
drinks provided!

Babysitting available



ANNUAL POT-LUCK PASSOVER SEDER

FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH 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 Bibbel (dbibbel@verizon.net).

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



EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, April 30th at 7:00 PM

Open to all including high school students and adults.

Our theme for this month is "Love..." and once again you are invited to share your story, poem or song about your experience.

Our feature performer is Cheryl Melody.



Cheryl uses music to encourage the dreamer in all of us. Performing for both adults and children, she just released her 9th CD Lullabies of Love-Nurturing the Heart of the Inner Child. After 9/11, she performed her Peace Begins with You and Me concert for 22 inner city schools, going on to perform it throughout the United States. Her children's CD Friends Forever was nominated for a Grammy award. She has won Parents' Choice Award and the national Kidlutions Awards.

Invite your friends and come join in on the open mic (5-minute limit) or just listen.

\$5 suggested donation, \$3 for students.

Light refreshments courtesy of Starbucks of Medfield and Brothers Market.

Church Office Reminders

Sandra will be out of the office from April 15-April 25

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 black beans
Canned fruit/fruit bowls
PB
Jelly
Pasta Sauce

Canned Chicken
Beef Stew
Cookies
Salty snacks
Bags of regular white rice
Trash Bags

FPUU Calendar of Events for April

Sunday, April 3	COA/7:00 pm/U-House
Monday, April 4	Medfield Historical Society Meeting/6-9:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 5	Pastoral Care Meeting/7:15 pm/U-House
Friday, April 8	Yard Sale Set Up/Vestry
Saturday, April 9	Annual Yard Sale/Vestry
Sunday, April 10	Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House Youth Group/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 12	Brown Bag Lunch/12:00 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, April 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15-9:00 pm/Vestry
Friday, April 15	Family Movie Night/Vestry
Saturday, April 16	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day/8-12:00 pm
Sunday, April 17	COA/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 19	COSM/7:00 pm/Minister's Office
Thursday, April 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, April 24	Newsletter Deadline Anti-Racism in the "Burbs/2:00 pm/Vestry HOWL Meeting/7:00 pm/Vestry
Friday, April 29	Annual Passover Seder/Vestry
Saturday, April 30	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse

