



First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



November Newsletter 2016

The Parson's Packet

David W. Chandler, Interim Minister

Dear friends,

Interim ministry is a transition in the life of a congregation. We tend to think of it as a time of change, and of course it is. There is a change on the professional clergy from a settled minister, to another settled minister, with the Interim Minister in between. Even if the two settled ministers are impossibly identical in talent and temperament, there is still a leap from one to the other.

There are other changes during the time in between – always changes in membership, often changes in circumstances and sometimes changes in staff and facilities. Life has a way of moving on and congregational life certainly does. “Transition” does have another important dimension in the interim. It is also a pause – a time of deliberation, about who we are, how we have come and where we are going.

To fully explore the change and the pause of transition, it takes the discipline of planning, the energy of discussion and the courage of community – the willingness to seek common purpose. We will start that shared exploration on Sunday, Dec. 11, with “Thinking about the

Interim.” Everyone in the First Parish community is invited to come to the Sanctuary from 11:30 to 1:00, after coffee hour. There will be childcare.

We will discuss the interim Focus Points that guide us through the process, which I have shared in a sermon. Your questions and feedback, the perspective you bring to each of the points, will guide the specific activities the Transition Team and I follow up with to help you clarify where and how each Focus Point informs what you are looking for in a minister to assume the pulpit in September 2018.

We will also review the timeline for the interim, and the Ministerial Search Process. The Search itself is pretty standardized, but I will explain how it works. Much more important is getting ready for it – and that is what we talk about most. The Search is hard work, but being prepared and picking the right Search Committee is 4/5 of the way to a successful outcome.

Be sure to come and help out.
Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday – November 6

“The Fire Next Time”

Rev. David W. Chandler

As the election draws near, with ugliness and confusion at home and abroad, we may well wonder what kind of America we are about to become. The answer will hinge on what kind of Americans we have been becoming for a very long time. **Religious Ed.**

Sunday – November 13

The Ganako School in Tanzania

Special Guest Donna Brescia

As a result of a tragic loss, Donna Brescia -- whose singing you may have enjoyed at our First Paris Bistro Nights -- became deeply involved in helping to build and grow a school half a world away in Tanzania. Come hear Donna talk about her work at the Ganako School, how it helps to connect her to something greater than herself, and how the ripple effect of a young life cut short can touch the lives of many others.

Religious Ed.

Sunday – November 20

“Kingdom of the Sick”

Rev. David W. Chandler

“Illness as metaphor” is the famous proposition of essayist Susan Sontag. How do we understand our relationship to those who are ill – and theirs to us? When physical or mental capacity is diminished, what new possibilities might open up? **Religious Ed.**

Sunday – November 27

“The Pretty-Excellent Church”

Rev. David W. Chandler

Most UU churches have solid histories of being “pretty good,” with occasional bursts of inspiration. That’s been enough in the past – is it enough for the future? If we moved our game up a notch or two, where would we look to be something more? **Religious Ed.**

Executive Board Notes

Dear Friends:

Early in October, I received the numbers for this summer's Farmers' Market, which show that we made a profit of \$ 1,558. Besides selling wonderful food and also making some money for us, the market attracts attention to our church location and adds color and flavor to Medfield's historic center. Many thanks to all the stalwart helpers who helped to make this possible!

As you know, Duncan Glover stepped down from his role as the chair of our Annual Fund Committee, a role he filled so splendidly for many years. I am thrilled to let you know that Mary Corthell and Marshall Sugarman have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the committee. Please join me in thanking them for their willingness to assume this important responsibility! Our annual Pledge Sunday for this church year will be March 19 – preceded, as in the past, by a joyful event that brings us all together. I do not want to spoil the surprise, but please stay tuned!

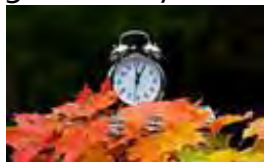
Speaking of dates: the last Sunday of our church year will be June 11, 2017, when we'll end the regular season with a festive Flower Communion. Closer to home are two other important dates: the semi-annual meeting will be on December 4, and on December 11, Rev. David (as you know from his message in this newsletter) will lead us in "Thinking About the Interim." Please save these dates, and join us if you can.

See you in church!

Fritz



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 6th.
Don't forget to set your clocks back.



Transition Team

Greetings from your Transition Team: John Kornet, Shirley Riga, Phil Burr, Karen Wians and Greg Beedy and our Interim Minister, Rev. David W. Chandler.

The role of the Transition Team is to work closely with Rev. David during our interim ministry to move successfully toward a new search and calling our next settled minister in 2018.

It's important that we all understand the process and what to expect. Rev. David has described his role and our process in several sermons and in other informational communications. You can find his sermon transcripts on the FPUU site: <http://www.firstparishmedfield.org/cms/worship/sermons>. There are printed copies at the welcome table entering the Sanctuary. They are also on Rev. David's Google Drive <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/oB2WvX5a7Gpr8cnVOTDRqOWhfNUE?usp=sharing>. Look for other references in David's monthly "Parson's Packet," FPUU announcements, and email blasts.

There are five focus areas in the Interim process: **Heritage, Leadership, Mission, Connections and Future.**

The *Heritage* phase started in August, with Rev. David's arrival and it lasts 4-6 months. This period is mainly focused on knowing our history, getting to know Rev. David and each other, building reliable and valued working relationships and preparing to move to the next phase, *Leadership*.

The *Leadership* phase will start at the end of 2016 and run into mid-2017. As we move from *Heritage* to *Leadership*, save the date for an important congregational feedback meeting on Sunday December 11, 2016. See the "Parson's Packet" in this newsletter for more information.

We hope you find this information helpful and we'll be providing periodic updates and references as we all go through this very important ministerial transition.

Veteran's Day, November 11th

Thank you to all our veterans for your service to our country!



STEP IN THE RIGHT REFLECTION

From Your Membership Committee

*Katrin Fischer (chair), Allison Bryant, Kirsten D'Abate, Linda Finkle, Darline Lewis,
Margaret Rolph, and David Stephenson*

The sun is shining down upon our church during this Interim Period!

Our newly expanded and energized Membership Committee met on September 28th. We have room for more committee members, we welcome additions and ideas, so please volunteer and/or talk with any of us!

We are having discussions with Rev. David about steps towards thinking strategically while still paying attention to important Sunday-to-Sunday duties. We are reflecting about why we have members, how one becomes a member and what it means to be a member. What is the "reward" for being a member? As average turnover in a 10-year period of a congregation can be about 50%, how do we attract more members to our wonderful church?

It was well said by a 13th century poet that life is a balance between holding on and letting go. Anyone can create community with people who believe just as they do, but the true test rests in our ability to create it with people who disagree with us (Lee Barker, UU minister). We have created an amazing community in our beautiful historic Meeting House in Medfield, and as we make our way through this Interim Period, we are discovering that collectively we are strong and resilient!

*Come join and have some fun with us!
Our next meeting is on October 26, 2016, at
7:30 PM in the U-House.*



November Coffee Hour Host Schedule



Thank you Sara Drumm for being the Coffee Host Coordinator for November.

November 6 Faye & Arnold Kalmbach

November 13 Mary Corthell

November 20 Eve Potts & Susan Stromgren

November 27 Available - Please contact Sara Drumm if you would like to volunteer.

If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, please see the sign-up sheet in the vestry on the bulletin board.

For our Youth:



Our Whole lives will meet on Sunday November 6 and November 20 from 7-9 in the vestry.

Youth Group for grades 10-12 will be meeting on November 27th



Friendsgiving Pot-Luck!!

November 19th



Hosted by the Religious Education Committee and the
Coordinator of Religious Education

Mark your calendar
Bring a dish to share with us
November nineteenth

Give thanks with our friends
Remember animals too
At the Pet Pantry



Please join the REC and CRE on Saturday, November 19th at 5pm in the vestry.

Bring a favorite thankful food to share with our First Parish family.

Turkey will be provided.

Food donations for the Pet Pantry will be collected. Please rsvp to Cissy at mecha1030@gmail.com.



Medfield Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service

Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 7:00 PM



Hosted by
The Church of the Advent, 28 Pleasant Street, Medfield
There will be a combined choir

Representatives from all the churches in Medfield, as well as Temple Beth David in Westwood, will take part in the service.

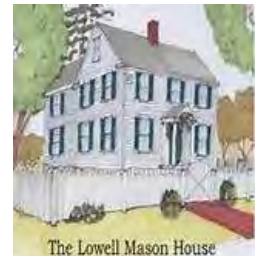
Notes from the Music Director – You’re Invited!



Dear Friends,

This fall, our wonderful choir will be singing out into the community. We will be singing at our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on **Tuesday, November 22nd** at the Church of the Advent. If you are not a regular choir member but would like to join us for this service which features a combined choir of all local churches, please let me know, and I can send you an e-mail which will mark which choir rehearsals to attend.

On Friday, December 3rd, the First Parish Medfield Choir will join other local musicians in a concert at the First Baptist Church of Medfield to benefit the Lowell Mason House. We will be singing a few hymns by Lowell Mason which we have been featuring at our own church on the first Sunday of each month this year, and the concert will also feature smaller groups of performers from FPUU Medfield.



I hope you can join us for both events!
Eva Kendrick

Gentle Reminder



When using the Vestry for events that include food, please remember to bring the trash with you. Our cleaning service does not arrive until Friday and is only responsible for our ordinary weekly trash and recycling.

Need a Name Tag?

Please wear a name tag for Sunday Services. It helps many of us!
If you don't have a name tag (or if you would like a new one), please email membership@firstparishmedfield.org.





Cap off Thanksgiving weekend at the Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse!

Saturday, November 26th 7 to 9 p.m. in the Vestry

The November feature is Jackson Gillman. Our theme is: A Day in the Life

The Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse is an opportunity for spoken word artists to share their poetry, stories, and songs. It is held the last Saturday of every month at 7pm at First Parish Unitarian Universalist, Medfield, MA. Open mic readers have 5 minutes to share. Teens and adults welcome. Refreshments are served. Original or non-original poetry, stories, performance art, music or songs welcome. Sticking to theme encouraged.

As always, we will have open mic plus...



Stand-Up Chameleon Jackson Gillman! Jackson has been delighting audiences for over 35 years. His performance roots are in cabaret and new vaudeville, but for over 35 years he has made a name for himself in the storytelling world, featured at the National Storytelling Festival four times and many others throughout the country. Tonight's treats will include comical song, and a selection of *Chameleon Chronicles* that have brought Jackson to the finals of several Boston story slams — some edgy, some sweet, and all true! Shining through Jackson's wit and extraordinary versatility is his bemused, warm-hearted honesty in his perceptions of life, astute and askew. <http://www.jacksongillman.com>

Complimentary coffee and tea and goodies courtesy of Starbucks Medfield
Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 youth



Notes from the Church Office



Information needed: Has your address, telephone number or cell phone number changed? Please email the office at admin@firstparishmedfield.org with updated contact information so that we can keep the church database up to date.

Please remember the following deadlines:

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month.

Order of Service: Wednesdays by 5:00 pm.

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange



To order on Amazon, please use this link: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/firstparisuuch01> First Parish will receive about 5% of what you order and will not cost you anything!!! (One important note - if you had items in your Amazon 'shopping basket' before using this link, First Parish won't get the benefit of your shopping. Only items placed in the shopping basket AFTER clicking the above link help)

Equal Exchange only sells "Fair Trade" products - by dealing directly with small farmers and co-ops, they insure that the growers and producers get a fair market price for their products - and you get some of the best produce at a reasonable price. First Parish adds 15% to the Equal Exchange price, so your purchase also helps to support the work of the church. For information on ordering from Equal Exchange, click on this link:

<http://www.firstparishmedfield.org/cms/component/content/article/45-amazon/76-ee>



The Medfield Food Cupboard



Thank you all for your continued support of our local food cupboard. Your donations definitely help to sustain many of our residents and their families. The following are the Medfield Food Cupboard's current needs:

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Raisins, Fruit Cocktail, Canned Pineapple, Canned Pasta, Chili, Beef Stew, Canned Corn, Tomato Products, Juice (large and boxes and Kid Friendly Cereal.

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.

FPUU Calendar of Events



Sunday, November 6	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, November 7	Medfield Historical Society/Sanctuary & Vestry
Wednesday, November 9	Transition Team Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Thursday, November 10	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Saturday, November 12	Vow Renewal/Sanctuary & Vestry
Sunday, November 13	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House
Monday, November 14	The Larger Circle Band Practice/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, November 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Friday, November 18	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Offsite
Saturday, November 19	NewLife Home Refurnishing Volunteer Day Church Potluck/5:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, November 20	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/1:30 pm/Vestry OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, November 21	The Larger Circle Band Practice/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, November 22	Medfield Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service/7:00 pm
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving/Office Closed
Saturday, November 26	Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, November 27	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Youth Group/7:00 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, November 30	Membership Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Offsite