

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

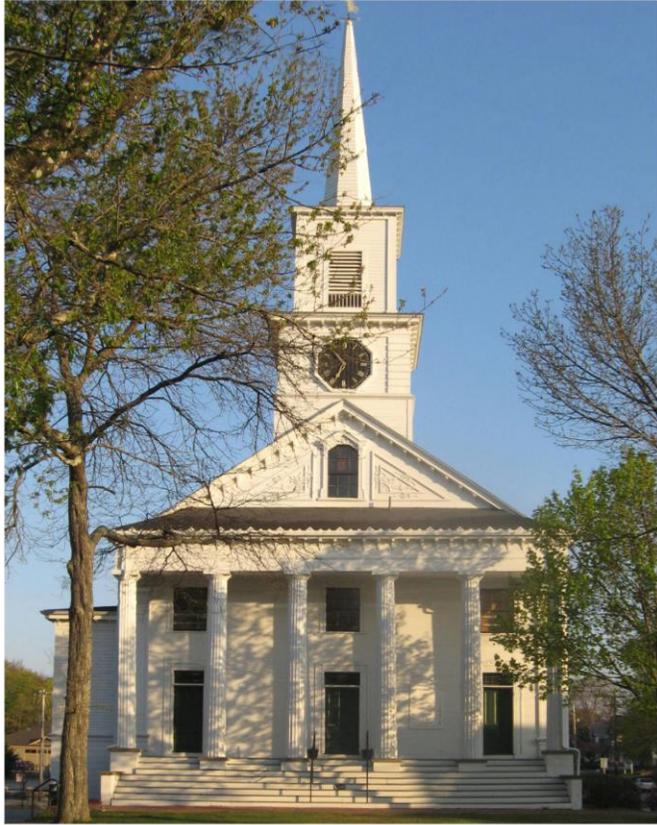
**26 North Street, Medfield,
MA**

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*"Away in a meadow all covered with snow
the little old groundhog looks for his shadow
the clouds in the sky determine our fate
if winter will leave us all early or late."*

- Don Halley



February Newsletter 2017

The Parson's Packet

Dear friends,

YMMV – "Your mileage may vary." It's been a popular slogan on the Internet for years, a shorthand reminder to be cautious about process and system outcomes – even those derived from direct experience.

While you consider the Search Process for a New Settled Minister, please remember – YMMV. We take advantage of strong systems because they have proven value. We use good process

because that improves the likelihood of good outcomes. It improves the likelihood – it does not guarantee a good outcome. A handful of people will search on your behalf. A handful of ministers will be serious possibilities for the position. The essential nature of "good" ministry is mysterious – kind of, "I know it when I see it," or maybe, "if it works, it must be good."

The outcome, in plain language, is a gift. You and the minister both want that.

The UUA trains ministers thoroughly. The Settlement System is highly organized and time-tested. I will tell you more about the training. Your UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative will be here on Sunday, Feb. 26, to tell you more about the Settlement system (a.k.a. "Search). The match is subject to the vicissitudes of fate.

That being said, remember there exists no perfect minister and likewise no perfect congregation. Like any relationship, you want somebody who is roughly as flawed as you are, with growth possibilities and a positive attitude – like you. What you are entering is a relationship. The goal is to start good and get better, come what may.

What are FPUU's flaws? What are your growth possibilities? How is your attitude? These

are questions well within your power to answer. That's what Interim Ministry is for. How about the answers to these questions for the next three to five years? Not so easy – but how you proceed now is the best clue. Are you being forthright about where you have been? Are you paying attention to the possibilities? Are you talking and listening to each other? Are you mindful of seeking – now and next year – what is workable and promising together, or chasing after unobtainium?

Are you eager to keep growing? That's good. It is the quality you need most.

Best wishes, Rev. David

Upcoming Services

Sunday, February 5

"Affectionately Yours"

Rev. David W. Chandler

Love gets most of the praise and poetry, but affection may be our essential need. No relationship – with those we love and all those around us – can last long without the elixir of the human heart. After all, we are not gods but only people. **Religious Ed.**

Sunday, February 12

"By Winter's Light"

Rev. David W. Chandler

The light of deepest winter in our world is still short but very sharp. There is clarity by day and glitter by night. In a season inviting focus on the essential, what do we see? At the core of our lives, what is revealed? How are we keeping our hearts? **Religious Ed.**

Sunday, February 19

Green Sanctuary Committee

Religious Ed.

Sunday, February 26

"Expecting Miracles"

Rev. David W. Chandler

When searching for a new minister, we expect our congregation to have a future. It does – because we act to renew our community. The future is ahead of us, of course. If we understand how to seek out what is marvelous, we might actually find it. **Religious Ed.**

Warrant

Special Meeting First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield, MA

February 5 at 11:15 AM

The Executive Board hereby notifies all voting members of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield of a Special Meeting of First Parish Unitarian Universalist to be held in the Vestry of First Parish at 11:15 AM on Sunday, February 5, 2017.

Purpose: “The purpose of the Special Meeting is to allow anyone who would like to speak about the end of our last church year and to do so as part of the process of starting to heal the things that may divide our congregation.” The following five voting members of the Church have requested this special meeting in writing:

Becca Kornet
John Kornet
Shirley Riga
Susan Stromgren
Karen Wians

In accordance with the Bylaws of First Parish Medfield (approved on June 3, 2012), the Executive Board shall call a Special Meeting pursuant to (i) Article 4.3 which states Special Parish

meetings...shall be called by them [the Executive Board] at the written request of five (5) voting members of the Parish, for such purposes only as shall be specified in the call for the meeting and (ii) Article 6.3 which states the Executive Board shall call special meetings of the Parish, as needed or as requested. As this meeting will be for discussion only with no action or vote taken, two weeks prior written notice and posting is not required to call the meeting.

We will convene right after an abbreviated coffee hour. Thank you on behalf of the Executive Board. Childcare will be provided.

<p>Next Interim Conversation – Feb. 12: Because of the Special Meeting on Feb. 5, the Interim Two Conversation will take place on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 11:30 in the Vestry. We will focus on Worship & Ministry. Rev. David will share a framework for understanding them. We will all talk about how they work for First Parish and for you. All members and friends are encouraged to attend. – Transition Team</p>

Youth Schedule for February



Our Whole Lives

OWL (Our Whole Lives) for 8th and 9th graders will meet on Sunday evening, February 12th at 7 pm.

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, February 26th at 7:00 pm.

Executive Board Notes



Dear Members and Friends:

The Executive Board had its first meeting of the year on January 16. Among the things we discussed were the following:

- (1) We voted to extend the contract of our interim minister for a second year. While we still need to prepare a formal evaluation, required after six months by the UUA, the Board expressed its satisfaction with and confidence in Rev. David. We are indeed fortunate to have him with us.
- (2) We formally ratified the expense of \$ 7,098 for the installation of a new boiler in the U House, after the malfunction of the old boiler caused a small fire in the basement on December 17. We are hopeful that most of this expense (minus the deductible) will be reimbursed by our insurance company.
- (3) We also discussed the state of our website. The present website has been resting on an obsolete support environment which is preventing us from smoothly maintaining the present web site capabilities or enhancing the present capabilities. The Board voted to authorize an expense of up to \$ 1,000 to fund the migration of our website from this outdated environment to Word Press, which will extend our functionality and allow us to develop a more dynamic web presence. The website is our window to the world, and we want to have an updated and functional website in place before we launch our search for a new settled minister. We debated the relative advantages of doing this with free labor from the congregation, which would take a much longer time, and doing it with the

help of a moderately priced consultant recommended by the UUA. We decided on the latter, and Don Rolph has agreed to monitor the transition (thank you, Don!). After the migration, we plan on establishing a small group of volunteers who can do ongoing updates and maintenance.

- (4) We still need to strengthen the Buildings and Grounds and the Religious Education committees. As I wrote in last month's note, the need for additional members on Buildings and Grounds became glaringly evident when we had to deal with the U House furnace fire. In addition to such emergencies, we also face an ongoing need to attend to small repairs – this is not a burden if it can be shared by many hands, but it becomes a huge problem when there are not enough hands to begin with. So this is an urgent **CALL FOR HELP: PLEASE CONSIDER** joining this committee to lighten the load!

Our Ministerial Settlement Representative, Cindy Spring, will be visiting with us on the weekend of Feb. 25-26, to meet with the Executive Board on Saturday afternoon and with the congregation on Sunday morning. She will advise us on the ministerial search process and address any questions we may have. **HERE IS ANOTHER CALL**

FOR HELP: we are asked to board her for one night. Since she is allergic to both dogs and cats, no member of the Board is able to host her, since we all have pets.



If you have a guest room but no pets, and if you are willing to host our visitor for one night, please let me know!

Thank you all for being in our community.

Fritz

Notes from a New Member...



I hadn't been a churchgoer for many, many years when I walked up the steps of First Parish on a sunny September Sunday in 2015. We had just moved to Medfield and I was determined to find a place where I might be able to make a contribution and be a part of something larger than myself. It wasn't *church* I was after so much as community, but I thought a UU church might fit the bill.

From the beginning, First Parish had a comfy feel to it. I liked looking up to see the rainbow banner as I walked to church; it said something important to me about the people I might find there. I was always greeted warmly, and because I could rely on the same friendly faces at the door each Sunday, I felt comfortable coming back again and again. I loved the clean New England sparseness of the meeting house and the history that fairly oozes from the pews. I liked that children were invited to climb the stairs to the bell tower and ring

the bell before services. I liked hearing the bits and pieces of people's lives as they lit the joys and sorrows candles every week and how you could come to feel like you knew a person a little from their joys – and their sorrows. I even liked separating the two parts of the weekly program to recycle what we could. Small things, some of them, but they all had great appeal. I liked Pastor Meg - she was warm and cheery and she wore great colors! She invited me to meet with her and she asked me how she could do better in church each Sunday. Imagine that! It was hard to fathom the clergy of my youth asking how they could do better...

So I jumped in, putting names with faces, and noticing how much time and energy and love so many people devoted to keeping this church and its aging buildings afloat. Everyone I met seemed to have a much larger role in the church than the very important role of sitting in a pew on Sundays. These folks provided pastoral care, led services, organized altar flowers and coffee hours, ran massive yard sales, kept youth groups vital, did outreach to the community and other faith communities. And all this while making sure that everything supported the goal of becoming a green sanctuary. And when something new was suggested, the same people jumped in to make it a reality – the Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse, the Larger Circle Band, Make a Mug at Medfield Day! As I joined in, I realized that I had people I could begin to think of as friends here, less than one year after moving to town. Remarkable.

And then, somewhere in my first year of attending First Parish, the congregation became embroiled in a controversy over the "Black Lives Matter" movement. As a newcomer I didn't weigh in, but I listened and I read the on-line comments on both

sides of the divide. Some of it was tough reading. Pastor Meg decided to leave First Parish and a search for an interim pastor began. Around this time, I had been asked to sign the membership book and join the membership committee and I have to say that I thought, "Jeez, what the heck is going on here? What have I just joined?" But I thought, these are good people. These are thoughtful people. Some of these people are my friends now. Let me see how my good and thoughtful new friends handle this situation before I bolt... And, you know, the same people (led by Fritz, stalwart Fritz!!) who volunteer for all the other trillion tasks that keep the church going volunteered to help guide the church through this hard time and bring in a superlative interim minister in Reverend David. He has had to guide us through not only our internal strife but through a period of huge strife and upheaval in our country, and I think that he is doing it all so gracefully.

What I learned in my first year or so at First Parish is that it takes a village to raise a church, and First Parish has that village. I learned that little things matter – the friendly face at the door, the sweet song we sing to the children, the reach across the aisle in friendship. I learned that being a UU is not static, which means it's not easy. The seven principles, after all, support "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning." It's a search, it's a journey. And on your journey no one will tell you what to think, or how to behave when you think it. But it helps to be on the journey with some really good people who are also searching. It seems that I have found a church, and a community, all rolled up in one.

Linda Finkle

Green Sanctuary Committee – We Need Your Vote



Last month, the Green Sanctuary's work was highlighted in a congregational moment. We tabled sharing flyers, information, and accomplishments with you all. Two years ago, First Parish became a Candidate in the UUA Green Sanctuary program. Our next step is to be accredited. We would like to apply for accreditation, but we need you to help.

The UUA says this: "The congregation must vote to become a Green Sanctuary. The wording of the motion or resolution can be as simple or as elaborate as you like.

Ideally, however, it will go beyond simply affirming the desire to apply. Aim for an explicit commitment to live by your Green Sanctuary values—one that expresses your willingness to continue making environmentally appropriate choices in all your actions and decisions."

The Green Sanctuary Committee will take the lead in drafting this motion or resolution. But it is something we are together in this endeavor. For more information, contact Thea Iberall at theaiberall@yahoo.com.



*We strive to live with deep respect and love for life,
To embrace the challenge of human differences,
To foster spiritual growth and to work toward a just and sustainable world,
Beginning with our own and nearby communities.*

Notes from the Church Office:



- Please remember the following deadlines:
Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. This month it will be February 19th.
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

Flower Donations Thank You



We thank Karen Wians for delegating flower donations for the sanctuary for the month of February.



Coffee Hour Hosts needed for February

Thank you Denise Flaherty for offering to host Coffee Hour on February 5th.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the vestry or contact Mary Corthell if you are interested in hosting open coffee hours.

The Medfield Food Cupboard



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. These are the current needs:

Canned Chili
Rice
Peanut Butter
Jelly

Large juice
Juice boxes
Canned peaches and pears
Snacks
Pasta sauce

Kid friendly cereal /Raisin Bran/
Special K

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.



EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

When: Saturday, February 25th
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Vestry

February's Feature: Elisa Pearmain
Theme: Dancing with our demons

Elisa Pearmain is a professional storyteller with over 30 years of experience telling in schools, libraries, churches and festivals around New England. She is the author of two award-winning books, Doorways to the Soul: 52 Wisdom Tales from around the World, and Once Upon a Time: Storytelling to Teach Character and Prevent Bullying and a new CD Forgiveness: Telling our Stories in New Ways. She has appeared at festivals including the National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee. She is a frequent teller at First Night Boston.



The Expresso 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. Original or non-original poetry, stories, performance art, music or songs welcome. Sticking to theme encouraged.

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



NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED EACH OTHER

But First... LET'S EAT!

SAVE A DATE!

Saturday, March 18 – or – Saturday, March 25



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND – FPUU SMALL SUPPERS!

Don't worry – no formal dress required.

It's a friendly evening with your First Parish friends.

LET'S GATHER AND BE GLAD FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

Share a relaxed evening with FPUU members and friends. Talk about what our church means to you, how to discern between actual and alternative facts, which late show host is the funniest, will the Red Sox have enough run support, or whatever else seems like it might be interesting.

You will feel right at home, because that's where you'll be!

Our Annual Fund Drive (Canvass 2017-2018) starts March 19, to collect the pledges of financial support we need for the next church year. Adult members and friends will be invited to gather on one of these dates in the homes of host members. We know that now more than ever, our church matters in our lives. We need our relationships of sharing and caring, of reflection and inspiration, of music and words. We need our good work in the community and the world, sharing and standing up for UU values. We know now more than ever, we need each other.

So mark your calendar for March 18 or March 25!

You will receive your personal invitation shortly.

- The Annual Fund Drive Committee, Mary Corthell and Marshall Sugarman, co-chairs



FIRST PARISH INDOOR YARD SALE

**April 1, 2017
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Spring Cleaning?
Please set aside items for our
Yard Sale!**

PLEASE nothing broken, incomplete, or unsellable!

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

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
Small appliances.

We CANNOT accept:

TVs
Computers
Outdated Software
Clothing
Shoes
Car Seats
Bedding
Sofa Beds
Large Appliances

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE YARD SALE?

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



FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 5	Special Congregational Meeting/11:15 am/11:30 am/Vestry
Monday, February 6	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/U-House Medfield Historical Society/6:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 7	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Wednesday, February 8	Committee on Shared Ministry/7:00 pm/U-House
Thursday, February 9	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Vestry
Sunday, February 12	Interim Two/11:30 am/Vestry Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House OWL/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, February 13	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, February 16	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, February 18	NewLife Home Refurnishings/Volunteer Day
Sunday, February 19	Anti-Racism in the 'burbs/2:00 pm/Vestry Newsletter Deadline
Monday, February 20	President's Day/Office Closed The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, February 21	Pledge Drive Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Offsite
Thursday, February 23	Transition Team Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, February 25	Executive Board Meeting/Offsite Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse/Vestry
Sunday, February 26	Congregational Meeting w/Ministerial Settlement Rep/11:30 am/Vestry Youth Group/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, February 27	The Larger Circle Band/7:30 pm/Vestry

