

The Steeple



VOL 9 NO. 4 April 1, 2016

First Parish in Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Monthly Reflection Theme: Healing

Minister's Column

As I write, it is a day after another terrorist suicide bombing in the world...in Belgium. 31 killed, hundreds hurt. How do we reconcile such a world? So much violence and fear. So many tears. The poet Seamus Heaney wrote that we must "try and love the mutilated world". Buddhist and social activist Joanna Macy gives me a way of thinking that is comforting to my heart:

It's walking the razor's edge of the sacred moment where you don't know, you can't count on, and comfort yourself with any sure hope. All you can know is your allegiance to life and your intention to serve it in this moment that we are given. In that sense, this radical uncertainty liberates your creativity and courage.

May we stay open-hearted so that we can love the world as it is: abundantly beautiful and kind, and full, too, of separation and terror. Let the radical uncertainty of this time liberate our creative courage toward healing and unity. And may we serve together one moment at a time...always open to welcoming one more into our spiral of allegiance to life and service.

With Love,
Kathleen

Worship Services at 10 am

Sunday, April 3

Who Could Do Such a Thing?

The Reverend Kathleen Hepler

How can we frame terrorism in our hearts and minds? What allows human beings to terrorize other human beings? Is the mind of a terrorist somehow different than other minds? Does every human being have inherent worth and dignity...or not? This was a sermon suggestion from the congregational poll. *Sermon discussion afterward, Memorial Rm.*

Sunday, April 10

Trouble in the Family

The Reverend Kathleen Hepler

If we are honest, this topic is not foreign to anybody. Let's start a conversation about what might help. *Sermon discussion afterwards, Memorial Rm.*

Sunday, April 17

Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters

The Reverend Jack Patrick Lewis

The Worship & Arts Council welcomes Reverend Lewis to our pulpit. He will reflect on the Hebrew prophets Amos and Micah, along with the Seven Principles, in exploring a modern mandate for social justice. Rev. Lewis will also reflect on the experiences of young LGBTQ people today.

Rev. Lewis is executive director of OUT MetroWest, a community organization that supports LGBTQ teens in the Boston MetroWest area. This past year, the organization has responded to a surprisingly unmet need for high school and middle school youth. First Parish hosts an innovative monthly OUT MetroWest program for middle school youth. (cont. on p.2)

Stewardship Update: Your Pledges Enable Leadership Planning

We mark the close of our March Stewardship Month with gratitude to so many who made their 2016-2017 pledges. Your generosity and ongoing commitment to First Parish inspires and sustains us.

For those who have not yet returned a pledge commitment, please do so as quickly as possible. Your decision to support our congregation is what allows our leaders to plan thoughtfully for our ministry in the year ahead. Your support is important, needed and valued. As we move quickly toward our annual meeting, we will need good information about your financial support to plan for our 2016-2017 budget.

Need a new pledge card?
Contact Diane Bassett at
DLBASSETT46@gmail.com.

Worship Services Continued

April 24

Can a Walk in the Woods Heal Us?

The Reverend Kathleen Hepler

What is healing? How is it different than a cure? How does interaction with nature heal or cure us? In honor of Earth Day, members of the Climate Action Team will assist in the service.

Because of You and First Parish...

As I write this, the next wave of terrorism is unfolding in Europe. Our presidential campaign is revealing the worst of what divides us from one another. And there is daily evidence of inequity and injustice across our nation and around the world. It is easy to feel discouraged. It is when these things feel like too much, when what little I can do feels too small and inconsequential, when I struggle to make sense and have hope that I find most comfort in my connection at First Parish.

As so many others I treasure the moments of ritual and quiet in our Sunday service. I am calmed by music, by our spoken mediation and shared silence. I know that I will find in Kathleen's thoughtful readings and thought-provoking sermons a path toward equanimity. Many of you have shared that you treasure the chance to slow down during Wellspring Wednesday, to linger together in more meaningful conversation during coffee hour, and to reconnect in mind, body and spirit even for a short time of yoga, or meditation or discussion. These are the some of the many gifts of First Parish in our lives.

Because First Parish exists, with the leadership of our senior minister and the commitment of so many to create opportunities for calm and connection in an uncertain and discouraging world, we can all find a flame of hope.

Diane Bassett, 2016
Convass Chair

Religious Exploration

New Program!

I would like to invite ALL 7 and 8 grade students to register for our NEW Coming of Age program, *Reflection on Religion*. In this program, students will not only learn about religious traditions of the world, but also reflect on the spiritual and social practices of the UUA.

If you and/or your child are interested in this *Reflections on Religion* please email me and register today!

Class will begin April 3rd at 10:15am.

Warmly,
Nate Sellers
Director of Religious Exploration

Around The Parish

If you would like to share a joy or a concern in the newsletter please contact the Caritas Coordinator. Caritas helps those in the Parish who face difficulties such as hospitalization, illness, and death of a loved one. Caritas coordinates cards, visits, meals, referrals to services. The April Coordinator is Pat Bassett who can be reached at 508-801-7423 or at nanoo1@gmail.com.

We are very sad to announce the death of Tony Greeley, Sunday March 27. He was a consistent and loving presence at First Parish all of his 90 years. He will continue to be a touchstone for what it means to be a good person and a committed Unitarian Universalist. Our love goes out to his wife Pat, his sons David, Steve and Tom, their partners and children. He will be missed. He will not be forgotten.

A memorial service for Tony Greeley will be held in the First Parish Meeting House on Saturday, April 30 at 5pm.

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Once a month First Parish donates the money collected during a Sunday service to a local charity. This “share the plate” program is coordinated by the Social Justice Coordinating Council. Many of the monthly collections are dedicated to the social justice working groups within First Parish, as this is the only money available to support these efforts. Each year, however, there are one to three months with “open” share the plate dates. The Council will determine who should receive these funds at our upcoming April 10 meeting. If you have a cause that you would like the Council to consider please plan on coming to the April 10 meeting to share a five minute presentation with the Council to aid in their decision.

If you plan on making a presentation OR if you are not able to attend the meeting but have a cause you would like considered, please contact Dawn Mendelsohn at dpmendels@gmail.com.

Finance Council

Our **Policy and Procedures Manual** can now be accessed in the Members’ Area of the First Parish Framingham website on the Congregational Documents page. The website is www.uuframingham.org.

Comments are welcome.

Valerie Murray
Finance Council

Climate Action Team

New Environmental Film

The Climate Action Team, Transition Framingham and 350 MA Metrowest Node are sponsoring a showing of Naomi Klein's new film "This Changes Everything" on Friday evening April 15 at 6:30pm in Scott Hall.

The evening will start with light refreshments and a reception. The film will start at 7pm. A discussion of the film and ways to become more effective in the fight to combat climate change will follow the film. The film has won several international environmental awards and provides ways that various communities around the world are successfully combating climate change.

Ms. Klein calls for a major revolution of our current capitalistic economic system to make the deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions that are required to keep our planet from heating over two degrees centigrade. Scientists are in agreement that if we go over this amount of heating that we run the risk of destabilizing our climate.

There is no charge for admission.

Larry Decker, Chair
Climate Action Team

Caring Through Sharing

Family Promise Coming to First Parish

The Family Promise Committee of First Parish is again asking for your help to provide safe, warm shelter during the upcoming April 2016 School Vacation Week for area families that are homeless. We will host four families at our church from Sunday, April 17 to Sunday, April 24. We need the loving support of many volunteers to make this a successful week. If you can provide a meal, fellowship, overnight hosting, room set up, laundry, etc., please contact Denise Moorehead, dmmoorehead@gmail.com or 508.820.3445. You can also sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/z35etbd>.

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

Items will be collected this spring for Renewal House, an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and Bethany House, subsidized housing for young women.

The collection will take place on these Sundays:
April 10 April 17 April 24

There will be a basket in the foyer of Parish House for your donations.

Donations needed for Bethany House:

Eco-friendly cleaning products such as all purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, cleaning wipes, cleaning gloves, dish soap, glass cleaner, wood polish, sponges and cloths.

Needed for Renewal House:

- Kitchen items: spatula, serving utensils and a blender.
- Personal items: hair ties, hair gel/mousse, nail polish and related products/polish remover, nail file and clippers.
- A gently used sewing machine

If you have questions contact Valerie Waldman (508-877-7769).

Thank you for your support!

Programs & Announcements



Spring Time Ladies Clothing Swap April 1 at 7 pm

Ladies, let's clean out those closets and make room for some new items! Please bring your gently worn clothes (no holes or stains, please) and accessories (purses, belts, jewelry, etc.) to Scott Hall on April 1 at 7 pm. Then the fun begins! Look through the treasures brought by other members and take home something new. Food and drink will be provided. All un-swapped items will be donated to charity. Please contact Valerie Packard (valpack13@gmail.com or 508-628-0170) if you are interested in attending and/or helping with set-up.

Jam for Bread and water and shelter and hope...

An afternoon of jazz to benefit Syrian refugees.
Sunday April 3, 2-4pm at Edwards Church (39 Edwards Street, Framingham). Donations to be split between NuSyria, HIAS, and Ascentria Care Alliance. Please give generously.
Musicians: Willie Sordillo, Consuelo Candelaria Barry, Ron Mahdi, Phil McGowan, Bob Pilkington, Dave Dubinsky, Zoe Krohne and special guests.
Sponsored by Open Spirit, First Parish in Framingham, Edwards Church, and others. For more info visit openspirit.org or call 508-877-8162.

Hope Out Loud

Bridging Communities and Families through a Praise Celebration with Music, Dance and Spoken Word Performances.

Sunday, April 12, 3-5pm
UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury
FREE! Reception with food and beverages to follow.
Featuring community gospel sing led by Boston Community Chorus, Union United Methodist Church Radical Praise Children's Choir, UU Shawn McCann, Greater Victory Temple Youth Choir and more. Info at uuum.org

Sacred Circle Dancing

Sunday, April 3rd from 6 to 8pm in Scott Hall. All dances taught, some live music. No partner, experience, or RSVP needed. A donation of \$5-\$10 will be appreciated to help with First Parish expenses. For more information, contact Paula Adelson at (508) 485-1030.

Wellspring Wednesday

Join us for a potluck and animated discussion on April 6 at 6pm in the Huntley Room. Newcomers especially welcome. Bring a dish to share: main course, side dish, salad or dessert, or pay \$5 at the door. Confirm you are attending, it helps us plan. Email Margaret Krell mkrell56@aol.com to confirm.

Following the potluck, attend a **Love 2.0** workshop at 7pm, facilitated by Rev. Hepler. In this workshop, based on a book by Barbara Frederickson, we will explore love as a practice measured in micro-moments of connection between people and learn specific behaviors to improve our health and life satisfaction. Open to all. No sign up necessary for this workshop.

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will meet April 11 at noon in the Huntley Room. *Men are welcome to attend this meeting.* Dick Rader will talk about beekeeping. You may bring your lunch. Tea and coffee will be served.

—Susie MacDonald, 508-875-3322



Program and Announcements

Round Dance Classes

Taught by Birgit and Richard Maguire. Final six week session of the year: April 4-May 16. 7-8:30 Waltz. 8:30-10pm Advanced Mixed Rhythms. \$54 per dancer for six week session. Sponsored by Fairs & Squares. For more information, please call 508-651-7571 or email rounds@fairsnesquares.com.

Dinner Discussion

The next dinner discussion will be held on Saturday, April 16, at the home of Diane Engel and 'Holly' Hollerorth. The discussion topic will be: TBA. Appetizers are at 6 pm, dinner at 7, and discussion at 8. Contact Dick Paul at email address repen2@comcast.net or at 508-872-9729 for more information or to say what you are bringing :
appetizer, salad, entree, dessert or beverage.

WomenCircle

Meets Tuesday, April 26 at 7:15 pm in the Memorial Room. This group meets monthly to discuss and explore women's spirituality. All First Parish women are welcome; for more information, please contact Karen Wagner at blauaugen@comcast.net.

Meditation

Drop in, donations welcome.

- 7pm, Wednesdays in the Memorial Room
Half hour seated meditation, led by Joti Royster.
- 9-10am, Fridays in the Memorial Room.
Simple silence.

Yes, There Is An Afterlife

With legacy planning, your appreciation of and contributions to First Parish can go on, joining a more than 300-year-old tradition of First Parishioners building a foundation of support for the congregation they love. The First Parish Endowment Fund, managed by your Trustees, provides an annual pledge of more than \$20,000 to supplement the canvass. Building the fund helps bring financial stability to our faith community. You don't have to be a millionaire to leave a legacy gift; bequests of all sizes to the First Parish Endowment Fund work together to provide benefit to all. For information, contact the FP Trustees Walter Barker, Jen Long or David Ortmeyer.

Yoga at First Parish

Whether you are an experienced yogi or have never taken a yoga class, you are welcome here! Julie Porter is the instructor. Dates and times :
Monday evenings for 7 sessions beginning April 25 through June 13 (skipping the Memorial Day holiday) at 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Come unwind from your day and be energized for the rest of the week! Fee is \$70.

Tuesday mornings for 8 sessions beginning April 26 through June 14 at 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Come relax and energize yourself for the rest of the week! Fee is \$80.

Drop-in rate for a class is \$13. Contact Julie ahead of time if you plan to drop in.

Please bring a yoga mat if you have one.

Contact Julie Porter at portgriff@comcast.net to register. She will send you a registration form. Call her at 508-655-9641 with any questions.

Nurturing the Creativity in You

You are invited to join the Spring Gathering of Womensphere, a Sacred Circle Gathering for Women through the New England region of The Unitarian Universalist Association.

In this workshop we will explore writing as a practice towards self-knowing, compassion and love. We will experiment with physical movement as writing's sister, engaging with our bodies to understand, document and translate our external and internal worlds.

Saturday May 7, 2016

9:30am – 3:30pm

The First Universalist Society of Franklin(FUSF)

262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, MA 02038

www.uuwomensphere.com



APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9 Meditation, Memorial Room 7p Clothing Swap, Scott Hall	2 9, ESL. 110 Edgell 12:30p Private Rental, Olympia 1p Private Rental, Huntley 5p Celebration of Generosity
3 10 Worship, MH 11 YRUU Bake Sale 11:30 UU Urban Ministry, Huntley Rm 6p Sacred Circle Dance, Scott Hall 6 p YRUU, Cave	4 5:30p Free Medical Program, 6:30 ESL 110 Edgell, 7p, Rounds, SH 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH 7:30p Yoga, Huntley	5 9:15 Yoga, Huntley 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell 7:30p Heritage Chorale, SH	6 11, ESL, 110 Edgell 1p Caritas, Minister's Study 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 6p Wellspring Wednesday, Huntley 7p Meditation, Memorial Rm 7:30 p Choir, MH	7 8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 10:30 Maintenance Council Mtg, Huntley 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 7p BoA., Huntley 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall	8 9 Meditation, Memorial Room 6p Wedding Rehearsal, MH 6:30p JYG, Huntley	9 9 ESL. 110 Edgell 10 Memorial Service, Scott Hall 12:30 Private rental, Olympia Brown 4p Wedding, MH 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall
10 10 Worship Service, Meeting House 11am JYG Bake Sale 11:30 SJCC, Huntley 1pm Private Rental, Scott Hall 6p YRUU, Cave	11 12p Women's Alliance, Huntley 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 5:30p FCNS, Olympia 6:30 p, ESL, 110 Edgell Rd 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH 7p, Rounds, Scott Hall 7:30p Yoga, Huntley	12 9:15 Yoga, Huntley 1p Stitches in Time, Memorial Room 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell 7p FCNS Board mtg, Huntley 7:30p Heritage Chorale, SH	13 11 ESL, 110 Edgell Rd 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 6:30p, OUT Metro-West NEXUS Scott Hall 6:30p PFLAG, Huntley Room 7p Meditation, Memorial Rm 7:30 p Choir, MH	14 8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 7p BoA, Huntley 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall	15 9 Meditation, Memorial Room 5:30p Climate Action Team Movie Night, Scott Hall	16 9 ESL. 110 Edgell 9 Private Rental, Scott Hall, Huntley 10a-2p, Olympia 2-3p
17 10 Worship Service, Meeting House 11:30, Spanish Conversation Club, Memorial Rm Set up for Family Promise Huntley, Olympia Brown, Nursery, Memorial Rm, Dix 6 p YRUU, Cave	18 Patriots Day Office closed 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 6:30 p ESL, 110 Edgell Rd	19 9:15 Yoga, SH 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell 7:30p Heritage Chorale, MH	20 11 ESL, 110 Edgell 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 7p, Finance Council, 110 Edgell 7p Meditation, Memorial Rm 7:30p Choir, MH	21 8 Coffee & Muffins, Scott Hall	22 9 Meditation, Memorial Room	23 9 ESL. 110 Edgell
FAMILY PROMISE IN PARISH HOUSE						
24 10 Worship Service, Meeting House 6 p YRUU, Cave	25 5:30 p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 6:30 p ESL, 110 Edgell Rd 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH 7p, Rounds, SH	26 1p Stitches in Time, Memorial Room 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell 6:30p Parents & Others, Huntley 7:15p, WomenCircle, Memorial Rm 7:30p Heritage Chorale, SH	27 11 ESL, 110 Edgell 12:45p Covenant Grp, Memorial Room 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 7p Meditation, Memorial Rm 7:30p Choir, MH 7:30 Yoga, Huntley	28 8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 11 Potluck lunch, Huntley Room 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 6:30p JYG, Huntley 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall	29 9 Meditation, Memorial Room 3pm Mindfulness, Memorial Room	30 9 ESL. 110 Edgell 9 Private Rental, Scott Hall, Huntley 10a-2p, Olympia 2-3p 5pm Memorial Service, Meeting House, Scott Hall

The First Parish In Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
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MINISTER EMERITUS

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