

The Steeple



VOL 11 NO. 6 June 1, 2017

First Parish in Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Minister's Column

Summer services begin at First Parish on June 18th. They are held in (air-conditioned) Scott Hall each Sunday at 10am. The services are led by church members or invited guests. It is a chance to worship in different ways and hear the voices of your fellow congregants. Enjoy.

June 4th is my last Sunday in the pulpit until September. I will be present at the Youth Service on June 11th. Hope you will join in the all-congregation picnic after the service. There is information below.

I will be away for three weeks of the summer, but in Framingham for the remainder preparing for the church year. Please call me on my cell phone if you have an urgent need : 732-245-3749.

Thank you to those leaving the Board of Assessors: Jill Borelli, Rich Boyd, Deborah De Bourdieu and Chair, Robin Hegvik. My gratitude for Veena Baker who has chaired the Worship and Arts Council this year, and to all who have volunteered to lead and to serve our wonderful community.

We have had a good year at First Parish in Framingham. I sense a strong and loving bond here. It is an honor to be your minister.

The wheel of the seasons is turning toward summer. My prayer for each of you is that you have some days of unscheduled living, time to walk in new and unpaved places, and a surprise or two that only a slower pace can bring!

With Appreciation,
Rev. Kathleen Hepler

Sunday Worship Services, 10 am

June 4

*The Spaciousness Outside of the Box
And, Flower Communion!*

A service about how to be less boxed in by the news cycle and the odd happenings of the world right now.

The eighth graders will share their expressions of belief and cross the bridge to join their new chapter in Religious Exploration, the YRUU.



June 11

Youth Sunday

The senior youth group (YRUU) will lead this multigenerational service.

Followed by picnic in the courtyard.

June 18

Big Magic: Living the Creative Life without Fear
Marianne Orlando

Lay led service in Scott Hall

June 25

Personal Activism for a Threatened Planet
Claudia Gustafson

Lay led service in Scott Hall

From the Board of Assessors Religious Exploration

This year started out with worry about looming changes in so many areas of concern for our country and the world. We were blessed to have First Parish as a Safe Harbor to help us sort out our thoughts and feelings, then get back out into the community to help in many ways.

As a Board this year, we were able to move in to help on the Canvass and give needed energy and support for the Auction. Through these activities and wrestling with the budget for next year, the Board has set up subcommittees to find innovative practices and to institutionalize checks and balances toward the goal of stabilizing the financial picture for the future. We are off to a good start on this path by taking a balanced budget to the Annual Meeting with no cuts to programs and long-overdue salary increases for the staff.

Working with the Board this year has been invigorating and has stimulated my creativity. The spoken myth is that being on a Board is no fun and a big sacrifice, and being Board Chair is an onerous task. To the contrary, for me it has been a very positive experience and a marvelous opportunity to get to know a lot more members of the church and more details about programs and celebrations. I recommend it highly.

Thanks to all who continued to pitch in to keep our Safe Harbor vital.

Robin Hegvik, Chair
Board of Assessors

As the church year comes to a close, there are several important notes.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)*

The upcoming school year (2017-2018) is an OWL year for students in 7th and 8th grade primarily. 9th grade students who have not yet attended are welcome. If your child does not currently attend regular RE Sunday morning programming, please let Rebecca Crawford know if you are interested in enrolling your child. If you do not have a child this age, please note that grandchildren and family friends are welcome to attend at the non-member rate.

*OWL, Our Whole Lives, is a sexuality education course developed by the UU and UUC faiths. More information can be found online at uua.org/re/owl.

RE Registration for 2017-18

Believe it or not, registration for next church year is upon us!! Please take a moment to fill out the online registration form. <https://goo.gl/forms/Mch2qQvt48SPVcbe2>. All children must be registered, from infants to high school aged youth. Only one form is required per family.

June 4

8th Grade Expressions of Belief followed by the last Sunday morning classes for the year.

June 11

Youth Sunday, an intergenerational service led by our Senior Youth Group, and End of Year Picnic*

*Please bring a potluck item to share and enjoy the nice weather outdoors for a church-wide picnic! (Rain plan, Scott Hall)

Rebecca Crawford can be reached at dre.uuframingham@gmail.com or on her cell phone at 978-821-5122 by voice or text.

Note from the Editor

This will be last issue of *The Steeple* for the summer.

In the fall, the Steeple will return as a primarily online newsletter, like the Mid-Month Update.

People who have asked for warrants to continue to be mailed to them, rather than emailed, will automatically receive a paper version of the Steeple. Everyone else will receive the new electronic newsletter.

Everyone who has been receiving the PDF version of the Steeple by email will receive the HTML version in the fall.

Why the change?

To qualify for bulk rate mailing (.11 instead of .49 per piece) there has to be at least 200 pieces. We have been sending 60 copies back to the office to reach this minimum—and most of those get recycled. We can save a lot of trees by significantly reducing the number that are printed. In addition, we will save hundreds of dollars in postage and paper.

Sara Morrison Neil



Share the Plate

On June 4, Share the Plate will be in support of UU Class Conversations.

UU Class Conversations, which works to bridge class differences and barriers within our denomination, exists thanks to the foresight of First Parish's leadership in 2013.

When Rev. Dorothy Emerson and First Parish member Denise Moorehead began to discuss creating a way for UUs to become more class-inclusive, they approached the UU Funding Program. In order to be considered for a "seed" grant, the nascent organization needed a sponsor to act as a fiscal agent. First Parish Framingham UU agreed to be the new organization's partner.

Now four years later, UU Class Conversations has become a nationwide group working to raise awareness about the social class and classism within our faith community. While still small, Class Conversations has worked with over 30 UU congregations and organizations and several hundred UUs through workshops -- including First Parish. The independent UU organization has also provided strategies to become more class inclusive to over 100 congregations and 1,500 UUs at regional meetings and at General Assembly. Run by a volunteer Steering Committee and with a Board of Advisors, including our congregation's senior minister Kathleen Hepler, Class Conversations has broadened its focus on class to include the intersection of class and race.

Thank you for supporting this important work.

Denise Moorehead

From the Historian

Historian's Serendipity (or Not)

Russ Greve recently found a damaged old pewter plate in the kitchen donated in someone's name to the Parish in 1962. Although no longer usable, it was created by hand and given in that person's honor. Thanks to Russ and Sara, I have it safely ensconced in the archives for future study. I'm not sure what or if I will find out more information about it. I am often handed material and items that require research to find out more about them. Sometimes I am successful and sometimes I am not. I don't mind, in fact the information pursuit is part of what makes being a historian interesting and fun.

The word serendipity is defined as a pleasant surprise or fortunate happenstance. Merriam – Webster say it is "luck that takes the form of finding valuable or pleasant things that are not looked for." Obviously many things that I find or learn about are not pleasant surprises. But what is considered serendipitous to a lover of history might be considered boring or unimportant by others.

Anyone who works with historical documents or items has moments of serendipity. Sometimes it is a fact that they were looking for but didn't expect to find or something they did not know existed but helps fill in a missing piece of a historical puzzle. An example of serendipity from my experience as First Parish historian was pulling the 1930 Universalist quilt from the bag where I found it in the archives several years ago. I only realized its value when I took it to the Quilt Museum in Lowell where they oohed and aahed about it. Another was the recent results of my research into the question of who initially owned the Framingham Centre Common. More on that to come in the future.

I take all donations to the archives seriously. Sometimes the material doesn't fit into what we save or it is past repair. However we examine everything carefully in case serendipity is hiding in there and we don't initially see it. It is the unpredictable and the unexpected connections that make history all the more enjoyable and exciting.

Janet Nichols

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 and newsletter announcements. The June Coordinator is Jane Clarke who can be reached at 508-494-1955 or Jeal11@comcast.net. The July and August Coordinators will be:

Pat Boyd, who can be reached at 508-429-8932 or patnboyd@aol.com

Eva Benda, who can be reached at 508-872-7125 or evabenda@verizon.net

Our best wishes to Ruth Decker and Louise Rivers, who are recuperating from surgery.

Programs & Announcements



Wellspring Wednesday

The First Wednesday of the Month

On June 7, Kathy Swift will talk about her trip to Machu Picchu (pictured above) at 7pm. As always, our program is preceded by a potluck at 6 pm. Bring a dish to share of pay \$5 at the door. Both events take place in the Huntley Room. For more information, contact Margaret Krell at mkrell56@aol.com.

WomenCircle

Meets Tuesday, June 20 at 7pm in the Huntley Room. This group meets monthly for discussion and exploration of women's spirituality. All First Parish women are welcome; for more information, contact Marianne Orlando at marianne.orlando@verizon.net.

Spirituality Book Group

We meet on June 6 to discuss *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible* by Charles Eisenstein at 7:15pm in the Memorial room. All welcome! Contact Daryl Hess for questions at 508-494-3423(cell) or daryl.hess@verizon.net.

Parish Picnic

June 11, after the Youth service. Please bring food to share and lawn games. Beverages will be supplied. You can sign up online to indicate what you are bringing, and if you can help set up tables:

tinyurl.com/jvtncrz



Programs and Announcements

Wednesday Evening Meditation and Dharma

Ongoing Wednesdays, 7-8pm, Memorial Room
Meditation from 7-7:30pm followed by a reading or audio recording and discussion on meditation, lovingkindness, mindfulness leading to a peaceful mind and gentle heart. Drawing from the works of Jack Kornfield, Pema Chodron, Thich Nhat Hanh and other teachers. No reservation or fee required. Your donation supports both Sacred Spaces and First Parish in Framingham.

Eckhart Tolle Evening

Meets Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Memorial Room. Short silent sitting followed by DVD of Eckhart Tolle and group discussion. Kindly facilitated by Kathy Ward. Donations welcome, to support Sacred Spaces and First Parish in Framingham.

Green Framingham United

This event is sponsored by Transition Framingham. The goal of the event is to bring people together who are making Framingham more sustainable. By sharing ideas we can build connections and perhaps achieve significantly more. And have a good time!

At the beginning, folks present a one-minute overview of their organization. An additional minute can be used to share a current need your group has or a particular skill or resource you can offer others.

Sunday, June 11

Fireseed Arts, 2 Watson Place, Building 7
Saxonville (Framingham)

3:30pm Refreshments served, 4pm program

RSVP to Janet Drake: hall-drake@comcast.net

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 Debra Doucette.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The Climate Action team has set up a **Freecycle Bulletin Board** on the wall on your left as you enter Scott Hall. It has four designated areas for posts : Free Stuff, Wanted, For Sale , Services.

Please use this board to keep used materials out of the waste stream.

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8 Coffee & Muffins, Scott Hall 7pm Eckhart Tolle Evening, Memorial Room	2	3 9am ESL, 110 Edgell Road 9am Habitat for Humanity, Parking lot 10am Cooking Demo, Kitchen 3-7:30pm 8th grade Huntley, Meetinghouse, Scott Hall
4 9:15 Children's Choir Rehearsal, Meeting House 10 Worship Service, Meeting House 11:30 Annual Meeting and lunch, Scott Hall 6p YRUU, Cave	5 5:30p FCNS, Olympia Brown Room 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 6pm ESL 110 Edgell 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH 7p The Conversation Project, Scott Hall 7:30p Yoga, Huntley	6 9:15 Yoga, Huntley 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 7p Finance Council, Servetus 7p FCNS, Huntley 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall 7:15p Spirituality Book Group, Memorial Rm	7 11am ESL, 110 Edgell 6pm ESL, 110 Edgell 6p Wellspring Wednesday, Huntley Room 7p Meditation and Dharma, Memorial Room	8 8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 7p BoA, Huntley 7pm Eckhart Tolle Evening, Memorial Room	9	10 9am ESL, 110 Edgell Road 2p Private party, Scott Hall and kitchen
11 10 Youth Led Worship Service, Meeting House 11 Parish Picnic, Courtyard	12 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 6pm ESL 110 Edgell 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH	13 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall	14 11am ESL, 110 Edgell Rd 6pm ESL, 110 Edgell 6:30p, OUT Metro-West NEXUS Scott Hall 6:30p PFLAG, Huntley Room 7p Meditation and Dharma, Memorial Room <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Window Installation, Parish House</div>	15 8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 7pm Eckhart Tolle Evening, Memorial Room	16	17 9am ESL, 110 Edgell Road
18 10 Lay-led Worship Service, Parish House	19 5:30p Free Medical Program 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH	20 6:30p Parents and Others Group, Memorial Room 7p WomenCircle, Huntley Room 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall	21 6:30p Umbrella, Scott Hall 7p Meditation and Dharma, Memorial Room	22 8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 7pm Eckhart Tolle Evening, Memorial Room	23 4pm Private Rental, Scott Hall	24
25 10 Lay-led Worship Service, Parish House 12p Private Rental	26 5:30p Free Medical Program 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH	27 7p Fairs n' Squares, Scott Hall	28 12:45 Covenant Group, Memorial Rm 7p Meditation and Dharma, Memorial Room	29 8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 7pm Eckhart Tolle Evening, Memorial Room	30	

The First Parish In Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
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