

# BRIDGING



Newsletter of the First Parish Church, Bridgewater, MA, Unitarian Universalist

October 2016

## From the Minister...

### When Your Minister Needs A Minister

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

What does a minister do when he or she needs a minister?

One thing he can do is to call upon a fellow ministerial colleague for support and assistance to help him take care of some of the tasks that may be wearing him down a bit. Which is exactly what your minister, Paul Sprecher has done in asking me to do just that.

With his wife facing a two month regime of chemo-therapy treatment for cancer, and her needing his extra care and concern during this period, Paul took it upon himself to ask the parish for a brief respite from his ministerial duties through the month of December. During that period I will be preaching and leading the Sunday morning worship services when Paul would have normally been doing that—two Sundays in September and three Sundays in October. November and December's schedule is to be determined.

I will also be available for pastoral care duties on an as needed basis, and to attend Parish Committee and Worship Committee meetings.

Paul said he specifically asked me if I could do this for him because of my previous association with First Parish in Bridgewater as your Interim Minister 2,000 to 2,002. I've also been a frequent pulpit guest at FPB nearly once a year since that time and consequently there are a lot of familiar faces to me in your congregation both old and new.

So, yes I am pleased to be of assistance to my friend and colleague in ministry, Paul Sprecher, and also to be of help to the congregation here in Bridgewater, who have a special place in my thoughts and memories. I know what it takes to be a special caregiver and helper to a beloved mate and fully support Paul in his endeavor to fulfill that role.

If anyone needs to reach me during this period here are my telephones and addresses:

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# Worship Services in October

## Worship Committee News

The themes for the month of October are Covenant (in continuation from September) and Healing.

## Worship Services:

**October 2** – Worship with Rev. Richard M. Fewkes, Minister Emeritus, Norwell: "Beside the Still Waters" – The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is perhaps the best known healing prayer or meditation in the face of death and distress in the entire Biblical corpus. It has been translated or rendered into a variety of forms including a very moving one from a Native American perspective. Rev. Fewkes will share his use of this great Psalm in his own life and experience.

**October 9** – Worship with Matt Meyer: "Beyond Light Bulbs: Covenant and Collective Action" - Ours is a faith guided by covenant. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that some things are better accomplished in community. A spiritual life is one of those. Social justice work is another. Join us for a service of rhythm, music, covenantal community and collective action.

Matt is a musician and community organizer who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in music and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana and Central America. Matt is a founding resident of the Lucy Stone Cooperative in Roxbury and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.

**October 16** – Worship with Rev. Richard Fewkes: "The Making & Remaking of Covenants" – The making of covenants, religious and secular, is a very ancient practice dating back to Biblical times and earlier. One of the earliest attempts in our own New England history goes back to the making of the Cambridge Platform in 1648, which set the model for future Protestant covenants including our own UU versions in First Parish Bridgewater. On this, our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, what are we to make of our own making and remaking of covenants?

**October 23** – Worship with Rev. Richard Fewkes: "The Theology of Eating" – Gluttony was once considered to be one of the so-called Seven Deadly Sins. One of the most watched TV reality shows is "The Biggest Loser," where the participants compete to lose the most weight over a specified period of time and win a big cash prize at the end. What did Jesus think about the rules of eating and drinking in his time and culture? And what are we to think about a possible theology of eating for ourselves? When is enough, enough or too much?

**October 30** – Worship with McKayla Hoffman & Tony Winters: "Ancestral Healing" - We are reminded of those that have passed on, and from their place on the Other Side, we are inspired to live life differently, and to gain the courage and strength to heal from past wounds. We will explore the way in which we can be healed by those who are gone from this world through their memory and the lessons they have taught us that live on in us.

**Next Worship Committee meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Worship Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, October 20** at 7:30 p.m. in the church office. Members and friends are cordially invited to attend. You may share your ideas with us about worship... or simply sit and observe the meeting.

**Committee members:** Rev. Rachel Tedesco, Chair; Denise Haskins, McKayla Hoffman, Stefan Michaud, Tom St. Thomas, Tony Winters and Rev. Paul Sprecher.



# LET'S *Grow* TOGETHER

## HEALING

**Definition:** to make healthy, whole, or sound; to become well

**Synonyms:** alleviate; reconcile; soothe; repair; mend; revive

## IMPORTANT DATES

October 2	RE Classes
October 9	Intergenerational service led by Matt Meyer
October 16	RE Classes
October 23	RE Classes
October 30	RE Classes

Dear Families,

We entered the Religious Education year gliding from Water Communion to Peace Sunday. The RE curriculum for elementary and middle school then turned to focus on creating a covenant, which is so important to set the foundation for the rest of the Religious Education year.

Now, as October arrives, we embrace the topic of healing. The RE curriculum will explore a few areas, including:

- Healing Self
- Healing Heroes
- Earth Healing
- Rosh Hashanah

The Sr. High Youth are settling into their Coming of Age curriculum — focusing on their spiritual journey and faith formation.

It is exciting to share this multi-generational growth and bonding!

Be well,  
Sara



## On Pledges – Part 2

### Message from the Stewardship Committee

You made your pledge last March for the current church year so how is that money used to make First Parish a “happening” place? Pledge and other revenue sources (rental, investment, fundraising, donations) support our worship services, music, religious education program, Social Justice, facility and connections to Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Our budget reflects our mission.

This Parish is freely gathered to:

- Enhance the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and personal lives of its members by supporting their unique spiritual journeys.
- Educate, inspire, and support the spiritual growth of young people.
- Serve the needs of local and global communities.
- Respect and preserve the earth.
- Seek justice by promoting and defending human dignity, equality, and liberty in all matters.
- Uphold an open and democratic process.

We all share in the support of this church. So keep thinking about how important First Parish is to you and your family.

Your Stewardship Team



### SAVE THE DATE – HOLIDAY FAIRE WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

The First Parish Holiday Faire will be held on Friday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup> and all day, Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Parish Committee decided at its September meeting to change the date from the first weekend in December, when we have had the fair in recent years, to the second weekend, 12/9 & 10, because of the large crowds that the East Bridgewater holiday fair draws on the first Saturday. Look for more details in upcoming weeks but put these dates on your calendar in the meantime.

From the Parish Committee



### CONGRATS, KELSEY!

Congratulations to Kelsey Baumgarten, who recently completed a year-long post-graduate internship in nutrition and dietetics at Mass. General Hospital. At the graduation ceremony, Kelsey was presented with the Louise Hatch Award, given to the intern who most exemplifies the ideals of the program. Kelsey has moved back home temporarily and is working fulltime at Mass General. She hopes to see everyone in church soon.

The First Parish Women's Group will meet on Wednesday, October 12 in the Upper Parish Hall. All women are invited to join with other women of the church, exploring their WomanSpirit. For our altar, please bring an item (no animal or other human, but a picture of them would be fine) that represents something important in your life. We'll start at 6:30 and go until 8:30 when we all can relax with any food or drink you bring to share.



If you have any questions, call either Susan Holton (508-821-2034 [holtonsusan@gmail.com](mailto:holtonsusan@gmail.com)) or McKayla Hoffman (508-813-0575 [mckaylahoffman@gmail.com](mailto:mckaylahoffman@gmail.com)).

## **SHARE THE PLATE SELECTION**

Half of the October and November undesignated collections will be donated to Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) of which First Parish is a member. If you would like to make a special donation to BIC, please make out your check to First Parish and write BIC in the memo line.

BIC was created in 1990 by area clergy and lay leaders driven to action by the troubles facing the city of Brockton. For over 25 years, BIC has been working to change the balance of power in low and moderate income communities of color. BIC works with local sister organizations across the state as a part of the statewide Mass. Communities Action Network (MCAN).

## **MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHES**

Monday, October 3 at 8:45 am lunches will be prepared for MainSpring House Homeless Shelter in Brockton. Volunteers and donations always welcome. Speak with Betty Gilson to help.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, October 6 at 7pm the Social Justice Committee will meet at the church to discuss fall plans. This will include ideas for the Nov. Guest at Your Table service, participation in the Dec. Christmas Fair, issues from BIC and U U Mass Action. New members and ideas are always welcome.

## **LGBT PROGRAM AT BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY**

Thursday, October 27 from 12:15 - 2:15 pm there will be a program in the Heritage Room, Clement Maxwell Library at BSU, *The Two Spirit People*. This is a special presentation in conjunction with LGBT History Month. Harlan Pruden, First Nations Cree Scholar and activist, will present "Two Spirit People Then & Now: Sex, Gender and Spirituality in Historical and Contemporary Native America".

## **T"UU"RNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB**

Friday, October 29 the Book Club will meet at the church to discuss the October Selection *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. In a remote Hertfordshire village, far off the good coach roads of George III's England, a country squire of no great means must marry off his five vivacious daughters. At the heart of this all-consuming enterprise are his headstrong second daughter Elizabeth Bennet and her aristocratic suitor Fitzwilliam Darcy — two lovers whose pride must be humbled and prejudices dissolved before the novel can come to its splendid conclusion.

## **IMPROMPTU INVITES**

The Membership Committee has noticed that several clever First Parish folks have posted open invitations to movies, lunch, kayak trips, hikes, and various other fun get-togethers on the First Parish Facebook page with good times resulting. We would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of these "Impromptu Invites" and to post spontaneous invitations of their own. Feel like meeting for lunch at a pizza place, seeing a movie or taking a hike with some good friends? Just post your "Impromptu Invite" on the First Parish Facebook page. If you haven't joined the First Parish Facebook page and would like to, contact Jan Thompson of the Membership Committee [janicethompson22@comcast.net](mailto:janicethompson22@comcast.net) and she'll add you. This is the closed or "secret" First Parish Facebook page for friends and members of the church, not the public page. Your posts are only seen by members and friends of First Parish who have joined the page.

## **SCIENCE AND RELIGION**

The Science and Religion Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, October 19 at 7pm.



# Off the Common Coffeehouse

Located in the Upper Parish Hall at First Parish Church  
50 School Street, Bridgewater



## Saturday, October 1, 2016 at 7:30pm

Potluck dinner at 6:30pm

*featuring*

### Kerri Powers with Carrie Ferguson

#### Coming Attractions

November 5 - Greg Greenway  
 December 3 - Atwater-Donnelly with The Vox Hunters  
 January 7 - The Kennedys with Quentin Callewaert  
 February 4 - Don White  
 March 4 - The Boxcar Lilies with Sparrow Blue  
 April 1 - Bill Staines  
 May 6 - The Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio with Emily Mure

*Admission: \$15*

*Enjoy our homemade Refreshments*

*Sign up for open mike!*

#### GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE'S

#### Green Tip of the Month

RECYCLE TEXTILES!



You've heard it before....**All** textiles are recyclable. As you gather your pile of "too small, too big, worn out, too dorky" or just about any textile, remember that they all can be repurposed.

This from Sue McComb and Bridgewater State University:

The US Generates 25 BILLION POUNDS of textiles per year, only 15% gets recycled, leaving a total of 22 billion lbs going to landfills. This is a growing number, up from 18.2 billion lbs to 25.7 billion lbs to landfills from 1999 to 2009.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART: BINS will be available on campus for faculty, staff, students and **anyone from the community** to come and get rid of any textiles.

BINS ARE LOCATED in Shea/Durgin, Camput Center Ground Flor, and East Campus Commons ground Floor. Salvation Army, Big Brother Big Sister, AmVets and many other organizations collected used goods will also take your textiles.

Some examples of textiles are clothing, towels, rugs, backpacks, belts, shower curtains, shoes, pocket-books, underwear, sheets, blankets, etc. We will take anything even ripped or stained, with buttons missing, damaged zipper, etc. as long as it is DRY.



#### HOSTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

OCTOBER 2

Susan Irish & Ginger Irish

OCTOBER 9

The St. Thomas Family

OCTOBER 16

Eileen Hiney & Frank Yeatman

OCTOBER 23

Karen Messing & Rev. Rachel Tedesco

OCTOBER 30

TBD



## FACEBOOK FRIENDS AND THE FIRST PARISH PRIVATE GROUP

A reminder that First Parish has a Private (secret) Facebook GROUP in addition to its open Facebook page and Web Page. There are nearly 70 of us on that Secret Page where we exchange information and views that are usually immediate and not necessarily always something we want to make available to the whole world. Please add appropriate Facebook Friends of yours to the Private Group. That would include First Parish members who are not already in the group, other First Parish friends and attendees, family away at college, other family members who while not members you want kept up to date on what we are doing, etc. etc.



## FACEBOOK CLASS

During this summer's meeting, and during coffee hour after summer service, people expressed a desire for a Facebook Class. Your Growth Team took up the challenge and found a teacher and a few assistants.

On Sunday, October 2 after church, McKayla Hoffman will teach "Facebook 101." It will be a free class, location to be determined (either Upper Parish Hall or the sanctuary). Each participant will have their own assistant; the role of that person will be to help you - and only you - as you learn the process.

You don't have to be brand new to Facebook to come; some of us who have been using it for a long tie still need help and will come to gain a better understand of what we can do. So join us!



## Helping the Hungry

Our **Social Justice Committee** collects non-perishable food items for the local food pantry. We invite you to help the hungry in our local area by bringing canned and packaged foods on the first Sunday of each month. A box is placed at the front of the sanctuary, near the piano, to receive the items, which the Social Justice Committee members gather and bring to our local food pantry.



## Feeding the Homeless

Our church volunteers provide lunches for **MainSpring House** shelter for the homeless in Brockton. We gather on the **first Monday\*** of each month at 9 a.m. in the **lower parish hall** to prepare and wrap 100 bag lunches, which are then brought to the shelter by one or two of our volunteers.

You can help in many ways, including joining us at the above gatherings, donating baked goods, other food items, and paper goods as needed, taking home some of the fixings and preparing parts of the lunches (such as tuna or egg salad) at home for the volunteers to assemble at the church, or simply donating money toward the cost of the lunches, which is about \$100 per month for 100 lunches.



Please contact Betty Gilson (774-226-0942) for further information, or just drop by that morning to help.

*\*The lunches are prepared on Mondays to be eaten on the first Tuesday of each month. If the first Tuesday falls on the first day of the month, the lunches are made on the final Monday of the previous month.*

# October 2016 CALENDAR

Saturday, October 1

7:30pm Off the Common Coffeehouse, featuring Kerri Powers with Carrie Ferguson

**Sunday, October 2**

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship with Rev. Richard M. Fewkes, Minister Emeritus, Norwell: "Beside the Still Waters"

12pm Facebook Class at FP

Monday, October 3

8:45am MainSpring House lunches prep at FP

7:30pm Facilities Committee meeting

Wednesday, October 5

7pm Meditation Group at First Parish, UPH

Thursday, October 6

7pm Social Justice Committee will meet at the church

**Sunday, October 9**

10:30am Worship with Matt Meyer: "Beyond Light Bulbs: Covenant and Collective Action"

Monday, October 10

1pm Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 12

6:30pm First Parish Women's Group will meet in the UPH

**Sunday, October 16**

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship with Rev. Richard Fewkes: "The Making & Remaking of Covenants"

11:30am Committee Fair in the UPH during coffee hour

Wednesday, October 19

7pm Science and Religion Discussion Group at FP

7pm Meditation Group at First Parish

Thursday, October 20

7:30pm Worship Committee meeting

**Sunday, October 23**

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship with Rev. Richard Fewkes: "The Theology of Eating"

Thursday, October 27

12:15pm *The Two Spirit People*, LGBT program in the Heritage room, Maxwell Library, BSU

7:30pm Parish Committee Meeting in the UPH of FP

Friday, October 29

7pm T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club—location TBD

**Sunday, October 30**

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship with McKayla Hoffman & Tony Winters: "Ancestral Healing"

Monday, October 31

Happy Halloween!

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