

BRIDGING



Newsletter of the First Parish Church, Bridgewater, MA, Unitarian Universalist September 2014

From the Minister...

Hymn #1008 in our new Teal hymnal (by Shlomo Carlebach) reminds us to

Return again, Return again,
Return to the home of your soul –
Return to who you are, Return to what you are,
Return to where you are, born and reborn again.

We begin again together. In beginning, we also return to what is most vital to each of us. We each reach inside, into each of our own faith journeys, into the heritage of this congregation, and into reflection on our own highest aspirations.

We will discover some things we agree on, some we disagree on, and some we need to talk about with mutual respect to learn from each other – and thereby grow beyond the bounds of our own experiences into a broader understanding of the whole of us.

Some of you almost stopped reading when you saw the word “soul” in the hymn. I’ve preached sermons about “The Soul” after which the only comment one congregant made was “I just want someone to define this ‘soul.’ If someone would show it to me, I would understand it better.”

The problem is that there are many things that can’t just be “shown,” that go beyond “just the facts, Ma’am.” Our highest aspirations, who we love and why, and the big questions of where we come from and where we’re going are mysterious and involve commitments rather than certainty; they require “faith,” we might say. And so we need to deepen our conversations with each other, because it is in sharing our ways of understanding that we broaden our own horizons and to deepen our care for one another.

These are the things we discover and explore as we walk together in this congregation, bound together by our covenant
to dwell together in peace,
to speak the truth in love
and to help one another.

Your Worship Committee has decided to try out the idea of Thematic Worship Planning – an idea that has come into use in a number of our Unitarian Universalist congregations lately. The idea is that all of the services in a month will focus on a particular theme, exploring the theme from various points of view. This will help us to organize our services more consistently, and will eventually be used to help us make the rest of our programming more consistent, allowing us to find common threads for our children in RE, in adult education, and in other gatherings of our community.

We’ve only defined the first three months so far: In September we’ll focus on “Covenant,” October will be about “Worship” (another hot button word we need to explore) and November on “Thanksgiving.”

In as we begin, I need to get to know each of you better. Serving you half-time as I do, I plan to follow the pattern set by Rev. Anita and come to Bridgewater Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and evening, and to preach every other Sunday. I would love to have the opportunity to meet with you individually or as families at lunch, “afternoon tea” or dinner whenever I’m in Bridgewater. Just send me an email me (psprecher@uuma.org) or give me a call (781-210-2016, or text to 781-774-0086) and we’ll set up a time to get together.

And don’t forget to **gather some water as you travel whether near or far during the summer** so that we can come together as one when we return with joy in our Water Communion for our first service of the fall on September 7th.

In Faith,

Rev. Paul

Minister

Rev. Paul Sprecher
PSprecher@uuma.org

Directory of Religious Ed

Rita Parks
dre.bridgewater@gmail.com

Parish Committee

President: Bob Messing
rmissing@massbankers.org
508-378-3340

Vice President: Sam Baumgarten
sbaumgarten@verizon.net
508-697-6848

Clerk: Stefan Michaud
spmicha@verizon.net
(508) 946-5684

Treasurer: Susan Irish
eirish2@aol.com
508-378-2906

Members at Large: Pat Hart
Gordon Hatfield
Jan Thompson

Church Sexton / Building Rental

Tom St.Thomas: 508-697-8637

Choir Director/Pianist

Denise Haskins
denisehaskins@comcast.net

Tone Chimes Choir Director

Lisa Rue
508-378-8359,
lisa_rue80@yahoo.com

Religious Education Committee

Chair: Laurie Lessner
Peter Jacobson
Karen Messing
Sonia D'Alarcao

Community Minister

Rev. Rachel Tedesco
revrayted@comcast.com
508-378-3904

Social Justice Committee

Convener: Betty Gilson
gillyflower@verizon.net
774-226-0942

Membership Committee

Chair: Jan Thompson
redrubberball@verizon.net
508-697-2492

Green Sanctuary Committee

Chair: Eileen Hiney
fryleen@verizon.net
508-279-3955

First Principle Project

Convener: Betty Gilson
gillyflower@verizon.net
774-226-0942

Facilities Committee

Chair: Frank Yeatman
Fryleen@verizon.net
508-279-3955

Office Administrator

Jamie Doulette
firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com
508-697-8229

Worship Services in September "Covenant" is our theme

September 7: **Water Covenant** – BRING WATER from wherever you've been this summer. We share our water as a token of the unity of our congregation in all of its diversity. We'll talk about our covenants for adults as well as for kids and how they help us to "dwell together in peace."

September 14: **Marching Forward** – Our Parish Committee and our Shared Ministry Committee will share insights, ideas and commitments from our Leadership Retreat in August.

September 21: **Covenant of Nations** – Our annual Peace Celebration highlights our commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflict – a cherished dream for a time of dismaying conflict among and within nations. There is hope!

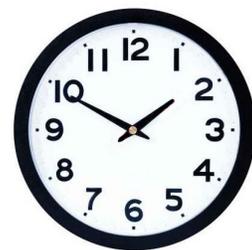
September 28: **Beginning Again** – Rev. Rachel Tedesco will offer reflections on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, reminding us that ancient Israel was founded on a covenant and that part of it is to remember each year the wrongs we have done one another and to seek forgiveness.

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Paul is on site in Bridgewater on the second, third, and fourth Tuesday and Thursday of every month and the first, third (and fifth) Sundays of every month. On the first full week of the month, Rev. Paul is off. Also, staff meetings are held each Tuesday from 12:30 – 2:30pm.

All regular business should be handled before or after the first week. Emergencies of course come up, and he understands that. You can reach Rev. Paul by email (psprecher@uuma.org) phone (home: 781-210-2016, cell: 781-774-0086).

Your help in protecting his time is appreciated.



DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SUMMER'S COLLECTION OF WATER TO THE SEPTEMBER 7TH WATER CEREMONY.



The RE Committee is very happy to introduce our new DRE, **Rita Parks**. Rita has many years of experience working for non-profit agencies. Agencies with core values of child-driven, family-centered, community-focused, culturally-safe practices. Her professional history includes positions such as preschool teacher, training coordinator and parent specialist. We know you'll join us in giving her a warm welcome when our church year begins.

If you have a child that will be in our RE program, be sure to fill out this RE registration form (<http://bit.ly/1AtqQ4U>) and also consider volunteering to teach one of the sessions, if you're a parent or not! We'll be having a short teacher orientation session on Sunday September 14th, during coffee hour. Come hear what's involved with teaching and basic procedures. Also feel free to speak with anyone on the RE Committee and especially with Rita, who will be happy to give you more information on expectations.

And we also wish to give a big thanks to all who contributed to the UUnited Youth Group program. We surpassed our goal of \$15,000 thanks to 30 individuals from First Parish and the \$1,000 from our FP budget -- in all we contributed \$3,405! So thanks from our hearts for the wonderful support this congregation has given to our Youth!

We're looking forward to joining everyone for what's sure to be an exciting church year!

Our thanks to everyone for your continued support,
The RE Committee; Sonia D'Alarcao, Pete Jacobson, Laurie Lessner (Chair),
Karen Messing, and Rita Parks (DRE)



Off the Common Coffeehouse

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



October 4, 2014 at 8pm

Potluck dinner at 6:30pm

featuring

Kerri Powers with Michelle Lewis

Coming Attractions

November 1 — Heather Pierson and Kate Klim (Split bill)
December 6 — The Boxcar Lilies with Davey O
January 3 — David Roth with Rick Gottlieb
February 7 — Greg Greenway
March 7 — Les Sampou (tickets \$15.00) with Annalise Emerick
April 4 — Girls Guns and Glory (tickets \$15.00)
May 2 — The Rafters and Lori Diamond & Fred Abatelli (Split bill)

Admission: \$13

*Enjoy our homemade
Refreshments*

Sign up for open mike!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

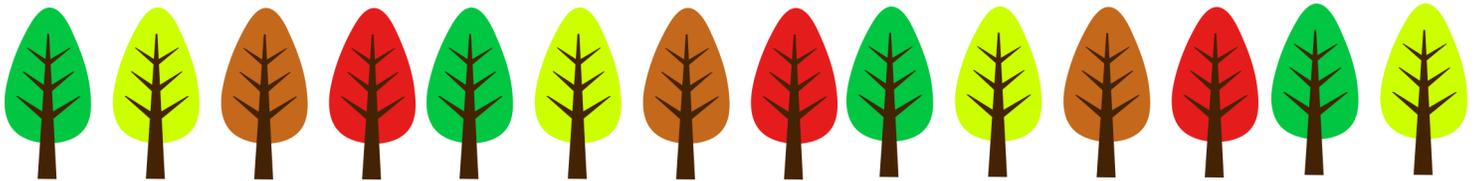
Welcome back to a brand new church year at First Parish! We hope you had exactly as much fun as you wanted to have, got exactly as much sun as you wanted to get and missed your First Parish friends as much as they missed you!

We are looking forward to a very busy church year. Please plan on joining us for Circle Dinners, UU Classes and many fun gatherings. Watch for information in your weekly e-mails which you should be receiving each week on Thursdays. And look for sign-up sheets for various activities in the Upper Parish Hall.

If you don't yet have your copy of the First Parish Family Photo Directory, there are plenty left. Please ask Jan Thompson for a copy.

If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, we would be glad to have you! We are especially seeking members who would like to work on Outreach and Growth. Please speak to any member of the committee to express your interest: Jan Thompson, Mary Hatfield, Karen Reed Messing, Susan Irish or Joe Snyders.

Have a wonderful, spirit-filled church year!



REV. DOROTHY BOROUSH'S MEMORIAL SERVICE – SEPTEMBER 13 IN BRIDGEWATER

It is with great sadness that the family and friends announce the death of Rev. Dorothy S. Boroush on June 14 at age 88. She died in Englewood, Colorado, in the home of her daughter, Gretchen, after a long illness. Rev. Boroush was the District Executive of the Ballou Channing District from 1987 to 1994.

Rev. Boroush formally retired from ministry in 1995, but eventually regretted the "premature decision" and went on to serve as interim minister of the Foxborough Universalist Church in 1999. She also served as "minister-on-call" for a number of New England congregations, stepping in for other ministers who were ill or called away. She loved preaching at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House of Provincetown, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Bell Street Chapel in Providence, RI and many others. She led Sunday worship services at the First Parish Church of Taunton, MA, from July 2009 to April 2012, while the congregation was without a settled minister.

A memorial service will be held at on Saturday, September 13 at 11 a.m. at our church, First Parish Bridgewater. Community Minister Rev. Rachel Tedesco will conduct the service. This will be followed by a collation in the Upper Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society, 27 Grove St., Scituate MA 02066

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE's Green Tip of the Month



The next time you reach for your stapler, try this instead! Use (then re-use and re-use...) a paperclip. If all of the country's 75 million white-collar workers used just one fewer staple each day, there would be a daily saving of 5500 lbs. of steel—that's about **900 tons** a year. Teachers and students, take note!!

(from **1,001 Ways to Save the Earth**, by Joanna Yarrow)

...And a Housekeeping Note from the Green Sanctuary Committee

Have you wondered about the cloth towels in use in the Ladies Room—where did they come from, where do they go to be laundered, who keeps track of them? Never fear! The Green Sanctuary Committee is here! The blue towels are used in the medical field and have come to us through First Parish members. Green Sanctuary Committee members size and sew the towels and have a system in place to monitor and launder them weekly. Please use the towels and be sure to place in the basket provided (not the waste basket!) We will have them ready for you each Sunday! Thanks!

STONE CHIMES

The Ringers will be meeting at 9:30 at First Parish on Sunday, September 21st, to review music to be played for the Peace Service Prelude that morning at 10:30. Please contact lisa_rue80@yahoo.com or Lisa at 508/378-8359 if you are able to attend or not. New members always welcome. No musical experience necessary - just ability to read from left to right. Will meet any 'newbies' at 9:00 if I am notified in advance. Will also have a separate evening practice the week of September 15th, if there is interest. Please notify me if ready, willing and able! Keep a summertime song in your heart :)

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

There will be a meeting of the Science and Religion Discussion Group on Wednesday, September 17 at 7pm in the Upper Parish Hall at First Parish Bridgewater. All are welcome.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME



Before the offer goes to Freecycle, I have a large older piano to offer anyone who can arrange pick up for it in September. It is a dark Woodbury of Boston. It's out of tune - but has served me well for a bunch of years since Connie Maribett (former DRE) offered it to us, and strong able bodied men of First Parish helped move it from it's previous precarious perch. I think the keys might be ivory...Contact Lisa at lisa_rue80@yahoo.com or at 508/378-8359. Peace out, and keep a song in your heart :)

Kat Gillespie—Community Difference Maker

Congratulations and thanks are in order for First Parish member Kat Gillespie, who was nominated for her employer's "Community Difference Maker Award." Her employer, the Standard-Times of New Bedford, contributes \$50 to the charity chosen by a nominee for their annual community service recognition award. Kat directed her donation to First Parish. Thanks to Kat and the Standard-Times for their community spirit.

MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHES

Monday, September 1 at 9:00 am MainSpring House lunches will be made at First Parish. Donations and volunteers welcome. Contact Betty Gilson.

T"UU"RNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB

Friday, September 26 at 7:00 pm location TBD the book club will be celebrating Edgar Allan Poe by reading our own selections of short stories. Choose your own favorites or check out some you haven't read. Join us to discuss what you enjoyed.

Poe was actually born in Boston and a life size bronze bust of him will be placed in the Boston Public Library on October 30.

SHARE THE PLATE

First Parish will continue the Share the Plate tradition by donating half of the undesignated collection for September, and October to UU Mass Action, our local UU Advocacy group. UU Mass Action believes that our faith calls us to change the world. Grounded in democracy, powered by hope, they mobilize Unitarian Universalists to overcome injustice. Several of our parishioners have been active in their issues and have attended the annual spring Advocacy Day at the State House. Since the founding of the organization, the Social Justice Committee at First Parish has made several donations and supported their campaigns in various ways.

Since 2006 UU Mass Action has had a history of mobilizing the 140 Unitarian Universalist congregations around social justice issues in Massachusetts. They focus their energy annually around two or three main campaigns, which are picked through polling congregations, consulting with activists, both Unitarian Universalist and non-Unitarian Universalist, as well as consulting with communities that are largely marginalized by the wider society. Funding comes from three main sources: Individuals, Congregations and Grants. We are a lean organization that makes every donated dollar count and are run by a part-time Executive Director and a volunteer Board of Directors.



10TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION FOR PEACE

Save the dates of September 20 and 21 for participation in the Tenth Annual Celebration for Peace sponsored by First Parish. With the present conditions at home and abroad this is definitely a year to be seeking peace and encouraging peaceful solutions.

SCHEDULE FOR TENTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION FOR PEACE

Saturday

1pm Crafts: banners and other items for the Procession at First Parish Church (FPC)

1:45 Brief service at the Peace Pole on front lawn FPC

2pm Procession around the Center of Bridgewater

2:30 Snacks FPC

3pm Playing for Peace FPC

4pm Cooperative Games FPC

4:30 Meditation/readings/quiet music in the Sanctuary

Sunday

10:30 am Celebration for Peace Service in the Sanctuary

12 noon Closing Ceremony at the Peace Pole on front lawn FPC





Tenth Annual Celebration for Peace

Everyone Has a Right to Peace

Bridgewater State University

Tuesday, September 16, 2014
4:30pm
Ballroom
Rondileau Campus Center

Too often we think about peace as something ideal that can never be attained. We can achieve peace through the choices we make in our daily lives. This evening will focus on community-building as together we share a meal, imagine what our lives will be like as we deepen our commitment and actions for diversity, and create a lasting vision for peace.



Right to Peace

First Parish Church

All events held at First Parish Church unless noted otherwise

Saturday, September 20, 2014

- 1:00pm - Crafts: All ages invited to create banners and other items to carry in the Peace Procession
- 1:45pm - Brief service at the Peace Pole on front lawn
- 2:00pm - Peace Procession around the Center of Bridgewater
- 2:30pm - Snacks
- 3:00pm - Playing for Peace, join in the singing with music by First Parish musicians and friends
- 4:00pm - Meditation/readings/quiet music in the Sanctuary. An opportunity to reflect on the need for peace in our hearts and in the world

Sunday, September 21, 2014

- 10:30am - Celebration for Peace Service in the Sanctuary led by the Reverend Paul Sprecher
- 12 Noon - Closing Ceremony at the Peace Pole on the front lawn

SAVE THE DATE!



Interfaith Open House

*Sunday, September 28
2:00 pm to 4:30 pm*

Come learn what's happening at the *oldest* place of worship in Roxbury and at one of the *newest*! We will start at the First Church in Roxbury, founded in 1632. Explore the 1804 meetinghouse, climb up to the steeple for a stunning view of downtown Boston, ring the Paul Revere bell, and participate in a scavenger hunt to learn the history of this storied congregation. Learn, too, about the many ways in which the UU Urban Ministry, stewards of the First Church, puts our faith into action through direct service, education and outreach to Roxbury and surrounding communities.

We will then walk down the hill to tour the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, the largest mosque in New England and a dynamic cultural center. Our tour guide will speak to the architectural and spiritual features of the Center. We will also learn about Islam and the Boston Muslim community, and have an opportunity to discuss how we can all foster interfaith dialogue.

Please join us! For more info, please email openhouse@uum.org



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kat Gillespie, Jenny Donahue
- 3 Pat Hart
- 4 Korin Zigler
- 7 Janet Dye
- 8 Debbie Baumgarten, Anaia Risko
- 9 Kathy Keenan
- 13 Lucas Gavin

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Kristina & Fred Gardiner
- 15 Joanne & Stefan Michaud
- 17 Betty & Bob Gilson
- 19 Hope Vallarelli & David Hirschy
- 23 Pat & Jack Hart

HEALING WISHES...

... to Gordon Hatfield who had a fall last week.

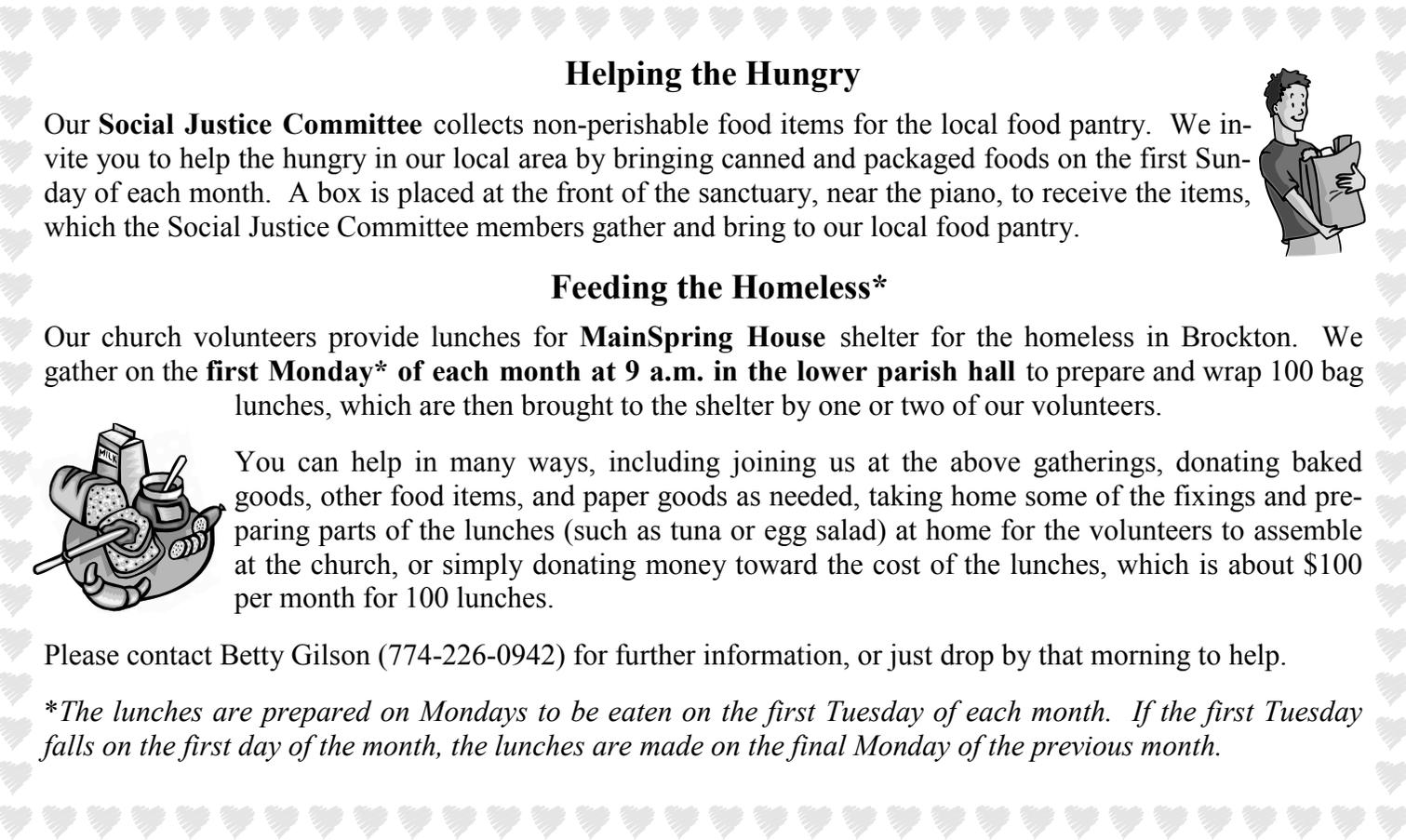
... to Bob Gilson who continues to heal following an August 15th surgery.

CONDOLENCES...

... to Mary Maruska and family. Mary lost her 92 year old Dad, Michael Maruska, on August 23.

... to Andrew Harding and family. Andrew's father, James Harding, passed away on August 9th.

... to the family of Rev. Dorothy Boroush. Dorothy passed on June 14 after a lengthy illness at the age of 88. See details regarding her memorial service in this issue of eBridging.



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.*

SEPTEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

Monday, September 1

9am MainSpring House lunches prep at FP

7:30pm Facilities Committee meeting

Wednesday, September 3

9am-noon Parking Passes will be on sale in the LPH of First Parish

Thursday, September 4

9am-noon Parking Passes will be on sale in the LPH of First Parish

Saturday, September 6

9am-noon All-church clean-up at First Parish

Sunday, September 7

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am **Water Covenant** service at FP

6pm Game Night at First Parish

Tuesday, September 9

5pm RE Committee Meeting

7:30pm Committee Council meeting in the UPH of FP

Thursday, September 11

7:30pm Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

Saturday, September 13

11am Memorial Service for Rev. Dorothy Boroush at First Parish Bridgewater

Sunday, September 14

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am **Marching Forward** service at First Parish

11:30am Teacher Orientation for RE Program during coffee hour

Tuesday, September 16

4:30pm 10th Annual Celebration of Peace at BSC's Rondileau Campus Center

Wednesday, September 17

7pm Science and Religion Discussion Group at FP

Thursday, September 18

7pm Worship Committee meeting

Saturday, September 20

1-5pm 9th Annual Celebration for Peace at FP

Sunday, September 21

9am Choir rehearsal

9:30am Tone Chimes practice

10:30am-12pm **Covenant of Nations**—9th Annual Celebration for Peace at FP

Friday, September 26

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

Sunday, September 28

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am **Beginning Again** Service with Rev. Rachel Tedesco

**First Parish Church
Unitarian Universalist**

50 School Street

Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-2525

www.firstparishbridgewater.org

firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com

firstparishbridgewater.blogspot.com