



BRIDGING

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

April 2018

From the Minister...

What Does It Mean to Be a People of *Emergence*?

Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up your whole soil with the plow-share of self-examination, but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready for any seed the winds may bring, and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird; keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for an unknown God.

Henri-Frederic Ariel

Each spring life in endless forms emerges once again from hibernation, from the hive or the nest or the soil or the cave. We, too, come alive in spring as the snow melts and the cold recedes. One of the most dramatic examples of emergence is when the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis, utterly different than the caterpillar it once was, free now to leave the earth and to range among the flowers and trees.

April this year starts on Easter Day and we remember how the disciples of Jesus came to believe that he had emerged from the tomb that seemed to have imprisoned all of the hopes that his disciples had felt before he was crucified. In light of their experience of the Resurrection, the disciples were themselves transformed from ordinary fishermen, tradesmen and tax collectors into preachers and teachers and prophets.

The last week of Jesus' life fell during Passover, when Jews from all over the known world came to Jerusalem to share and celebrate the liberation of the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt and their emergence to start the journey to the Promised Land. It's no surprise that Moses' demand of Pharaoh to "Let My People Go" was turned into a spiritual by America's slaves, who themselves dreamed of emerging from the chains that bound them to go to their own Promised Land. As Martin Luther King, Jr., reminded us, America has not yet become that Promised Land, but his words continue to inspire all of us to strive to bring it into being in our hearts, in our institutions, and in our nation.

Each of us comes from a particular place and time with particular privileges and burdens. Each of us has had dreams of soaring above the mundane as the butterfly soars in places beyond the comprehension of the caterpillar. It's not through a mighty effort that the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis or the flower emerges from the earth – it happens by letting go of what has been to realize what is to be. Working harder and longer and more fervently is not the way to become what we have dreamed of becoming. Rather, it is a matter of leaving "a little fallow furrow in your heart," of allowing something new to emerge that might not have been anticipated or expected. Sometimes letting go is the best way to become who we really are.

In Faith,

Rev. Paul

Minister

Rev. Paul Sprecher
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UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year, GA will take place June 20-24 in Kansas City MO.

Congregations send voting delegates to participate in the business of GA. The minister of a church is automatically a delegate. A congregation is entitled to additional delegates based on its size. First Parish may send two voting delegates in addition to Rev. Paul, who plans to attend. The congregation will designate who will act as our delegates this year at the First Parish Annual Meeting to be held on June 3, 2018.

Would you like to represent First Parish at GA this year? Scholarship funds may be available for anyone who would like to attend but needs help with travel expense. If you are interested, or just have questions about GA, talk to Rev. Paul, Eileen Hiney, or McKayla Hoffman and Tony Winters, who we were proud to have as our delegates to GA last year.

Sign Up for Circle Dinners April 13 & 14 and 20 & 21

This month we'll hold our spring round of Circle Dinners. These dinners are gatherings at the homes of members and friends of First Parish. Hosts provide the hospitality, the beverages and the appetizers. Guests provide the entrees, salads, side dishes and desserts. It's a great way for us to get to know each other outside the church setting. This round of dinners will be held on **Fridays and Saturdays April 13 & 14 and 20 & 21**. If you are interested in hosting one of these dinners in your home, or being a guest at one of these dinners, please look for the sign up sheet in the Upper Parish Hall, or contact Jan Thompson janicethompson22@comcast.net 697-2492 for more information.



Worship Committee News - April 2018

This month's worship theme is **Emergence**.



Worship Services

April 1 - Rev. Paul "Our Easter Story" - Easter finds its roots in the Passover Story of liberation from Egypt and tells a different story of liberation from oppression -- plus it's spring! Remember to bring eggs for our Easter Egg Tree. Worship Associate - Tom St Thomas

April 8 - Rev. Buffy Boke - "The Last Shall Be First: The Virtue of Humility"

Augustine is quoted as saying "If you plan to build a tall house of virtues, you must first lay a deep foundation of humility." What is humility, and why do we see so little of it where it is most needed?

Worship Associate - Frank Yeatman

The Rev. Beverly Morrison Boke — called "Buffy" by just about everyone — was called and settled as minister to the Canton, Massachusetts congregation in August 2011, from which she retired in July of 2017. Immediately prior to that, she served on the Administration Team as a guidance counselor for three years at the American Community School in Beirut, Lebanon. Buffy was ordained at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable in 1985. She has served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Virginia, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Buffy lives with Nick, her husband of 37 years, in Providence, Rhode Island. They have one child, a daughter who is this close to finishing her dissertation for her doctorate in anthropology. She is currently an instructor with a college study-abroad program in Nepal.

April 15 - Rev. Paul "Emerging to Life Again" - We often emerge into a new and freer life at moments of loss or danger or crisis. Like the butterfly, we can be transformed in ways we couldn't have planned.

Worship Associate - James Hayes-Bohanan

April 22 - Green Sanctuary Committee - "Kids to Camp" - BE AN OUTSIDER! Please join representatives from the Natural Resources Trust, Sam Baumgarten, and members of the Green Sanctuary Committee for a multi-media, multi-sensory overview of the impact of nature on our well-being. It's our annual Kids to Camp service! The presentation draws on research from **The Nature Fix-Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier and More Creative** by Florence Williams. Worship Associate - Janet Dye

April 29 - Rev. Eliza Blanchard - "Blessing of the Animals" - We'll give thanks for and blessings to our animal companions in a very special ritual. We encourage you to bring your beloved companions as they are willing and able to enjoy and be enjoyed in a sacred, public space. If not, please bring a photo or other memento. **(Leashes and cages are highly encouraged, for the security and comfort of all.)**

About Worship Associates, Lay Worship Leaders & Ushers.

We hope all members who are physically-able can fulfill at least one of these tasks twice a year. If you have a particular date you'd like to volunteer, please tell us in advance and you'll likely get your choice. Otherwise, if you are a church member and can do this, but haven't volunteered, expect to be asked to fill a couple of dates.

Next Worship Committee meeting: The next regular meeting of the Worship Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17th at 7pm in the church office. Members and friends are cordially invited to attend. You may share your ideas with us about worship or simply be present to observe.

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

Becoming a Redwood

A Selection by Dana Gioia

Stand in a field long enough, and the sounds
start up again. The crickets, the invisible
toad who claims that change is possible,
And all the other life too small to name.

First one, then another, until innumerable
they merge into the single voice of a summer hill.

Yes, it's hard to stand still, hour after hour,
fixed as a fencepost, hearing the steers
snort in the dark pasture, smelling the manure.

And paralyzed by the mystery of how a stone
can bear to be a stone, the pain
the grass endures breaking through the earth's crust.
Unimaginable the redwoods on the far hill,
rooted for centuries, the living wood grown tall
and thickened with a hundred thousand days of light.



FIRST PARISH BRIDGEWATER
UNIVERSALIST * UNITARIAN *
RE

LET'S *Grow* TOGETHER

SARA WILLIAMS DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR:

- April 1: Intergenerational Service -- Easter
- April 8: **Religious Education Classes**
- April 15: One Room Schoolhouse -- Earth Day
- April 22: **Religious Education Classes**
- April 29: Intergenerational Service -- Blessing of the Animals



EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY

The RE Committee hosted a Saint Patrick's Day version of Everybody's Birthday Party this March. We had 25 guests of all ages join us! Check out a few fun pictures from the event!



CIRCLE DINNER

April 20th

The RE Committee will be hosting a Circle Dinner for all ages at First Parish in the Upper Parish Hall on April 20th. RSVP to Sara at dre.bridgewater@gmail.com if you're interested in attending, or reach out if you have questions!

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 5 at 7pm the Social Justice Committee will meet at church to review the Biodiversity program and work on plans for upcoming projects. These include the upcoming Black Lives Matter films and the GLBTA program with the BSU Pride office.

BSU LGBTQ LUNCH AND DISCUSSION

Tuesday, April 24 from 11am - noon First Parish will host a luncheon discussion with members of the LGBTQ community at Bridgewater State University. This is a follow up to our fall program which was enthusiastically received by the students and staff. They were very interested in the UU Principles and wanted to know more about us.

Lee Forest, Director of the BSU Pride Office has sent the following request to help plan the discussion.

"I think they liked learning more about UU principles so that would be good. And I think an open and organic conversation would be best. They really liked the off-the-cuff nature of the last conversation. Perhaps we can come with questions about UU and you folks can come with questions about LGBTQ topics.

How about this: You ask your congregation to submit questions and forward them to me anonymously. I'll do the same with my students and merge our questions together. We can use questions as initial prompts or if the conversations lulls, and we can make sure to get to the questions, too, even if a natural conversation happens."

So please send me (Betty Gilson) questions that you would like our guests to answer and I will forward them to Lee. We had a lot of questions about pronouns in the fall, but there are probably many other things you wonder about. Especially how they fare in the wider society.

Also, if anyone would like to volunteer to help with the lunch please contact me. We need set up, food and clean up help.

Betty Gilson gillyflower@verizon.net or 774-226-0942

BLACK LIVES MATTER FILM

Tuesday, April 24 at 7pm the next film in the Black Lives matter series will be presented. It is *Detroit*, a fact-based drama set during the 1967 Detroit riots in which a group of rogue police officers respond with retribution rather than justice.

TUURNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB

Friday, April 27 at 7pm location TBD the "UU"rning Leaves Book Club will meet at the church to discuss *Major Barbara* by George Bernard Shaw. This satire in three acts concerns the dilemma of the heroine, a Major in the Salvation Army, who does not want to take money from a munitions manufacturer.



Off the Common Coffeehouse

First Parish Church, 50 School Street, Bridgewater

Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 7:30pm

Potluck dinner at 6:30pm

featuring

The Monica Rizzio Band

Coming Attractions

May 5 – Chris & Meredith Thompson

*Admission: \$15
Enjoy our homemade
Refreshments
Sign up for open mike!*



SHARE THE PLATE

For April and May the Share the Plate charity will be Kids to Camp. This is the annual Green Sanctuary project to raise money to sponsor children attending Sheep Pasture Nature Camp in Easton. If you would like to donate specifically to this charity, make out a check to First Parish and put Kids to Camp in the memo line.

MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHESES

Monday, April 2 at 8:30 am in the LPH 100 lunches will be prepared for MainSpring House Homeless shelter in Brockton. Donations and Volunteers always welcome. Speak with Betty Gilson for more information.

BIODIVERSITY

Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 pm Biodiversity for a Livable Climate will present a program in the sanctuary. This will focus on a growing global ecosystem movement that will be of help to us all. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this important program.

UU ADVOCACY DAY



Tickets are now on sale

[CLICK HERE](#) for tickets

[Share this event on Facebook](#)

(Note, we're only able to offer one ticket price this year. This has to do with the ticket platform and related fees. If a subsidized ticket will help you come to this event, please email lwagner@uumassaction.org)

What the fee covers: Building use fee \$600, lunch \$12 per person, speaker honorariums, staff time and materials

Help make this event a success and register early! Why:

- To give us enough time to make legislative appointments for you
- To get the preparation materials to you before the event. This gives you a chance to understand the legislation and discuss it with others at your congregations.

This year our program will include:

- Music - Matt Meyer, Rhythm Revelations
- Spoken Word Poet - Anthony Thomas
- Keynote - Rev Elizabeth Nguyen, Senior Strategist -Side with Love, Witness Ministries in Multicultural Growth and Witness

There are many important bills that need to pass this session. Most of the priority legislation will be climate bills, but we will also be advocating for the Safe Communities Act, Raise the Minimum Wage and Paid Family and Medical Leave.

SATURDAY – First Parish Bridgewater
April 28th, 2018



6:00PM Rick Cyge Concert & Song Circle

(Song Circle follows concert - sign up at door required, limited spots)

\$15.00 Donation at the door.

First Parish UU, 50 School Street, Bridgewater, MA

Rick Cyge is a performer and recording artist based in Arizona. In the 1980's, in the Boston area, Rick was the founder of Wood & Strings concerts and music store/folk center. Rick is a dynamic, warm performer who charms his audiences. He's a guitarist's guitarist whose music is informed by folk, jazz, classical and contemporary music styles. It will be a fun community musical event. Please join us for a great evening!

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 50 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.

Green Sanctuary Committee's Green Tip of the Month



*If you attended the recent service highlighting the work of Water for Cambodia, you learned that the average American uses about **88** gallons of water each day. Compare that to the average of **5** gallons a day used by someone in Africa and it is clear to see that we Americans must become more attuned to water usage and conservation.*

In addition to the usual recommendations to fix leaks, take shorter showers, turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving, and wash full loads of dishes or clothes, here are some ideas to get you started:

Use less water outdoors --Tighten those taps, eliminate those leaks, and use water wisely.

Save energy, save water--Water and energy are linked. It takes water to make energy (electricity and transportation fuels) and it takes energy to move, heat, and treat water. When you save energy you also save water.

Change buying habits--Practically everything you buy, use, and consume has a water footprint because it took water to process and transport it. Being thoughtful about purchases, reusing where you can, and recycling can reduce your water footprint.

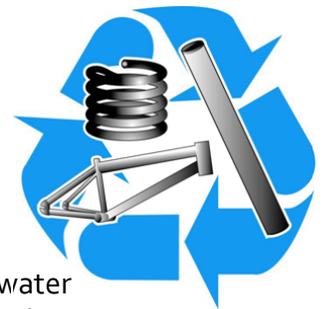
Change your diet--It takes water – a lot of it – to grow, process, and transport your food. When you eat lower on the food chain, eat more whole foods, and waste less food, you also save water.

Want more ideas on how to lower your water footprint?
Check out <https://www.watercalculator.org/save-water/>

SAVE YOUR METAL FOR FIRST PARISH'S Ninth Annual **FREE** Metal Recycling Event **Saturday, May 5**

9am - noon

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist, 50 School Street, Bridgewater
Co-sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee and Bridgewater Recycling, Inc.



It's time to start collecting scrap metal for our annual metal recycling event! All types of metal, including stoves, pipes, file cabinets, bikes, shelving, and grills will be accepted. Please do not include items containing Freon, gas, propane, glass, etc.* Our past recycling promotions have netted close to **\$1750** in donations to the Bridgewater Food Pantry.

Volunteers are needed to help move the metal during the drive. Please contact Debbie Baumgarten (catsmeowgo8@verizon.net or 774-240-1307) to volunteer or to arrange to leave your metal at church before the day of the event. Let's make this year's drive a big success!! Spread the word to your family, friends, and co-workers. See you there!!

* A complete list of prohibited items is posted on the First Parish website or call Debbie with any questions.

BIODIVERSITY FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE

Tuesday, April 3 – 7:30 PM

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church – Bridgewater
In the Upper Parish Hall
50 School Street, Bridgewater

You are cordially invited to a FREE presentation by Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, a non-profit organization dedicated to reversing global warming by restoring the earth's ecosystems. Bio4climate believes you too are concerned about the planet's health and want to make a meaningful contribution to its rescue.

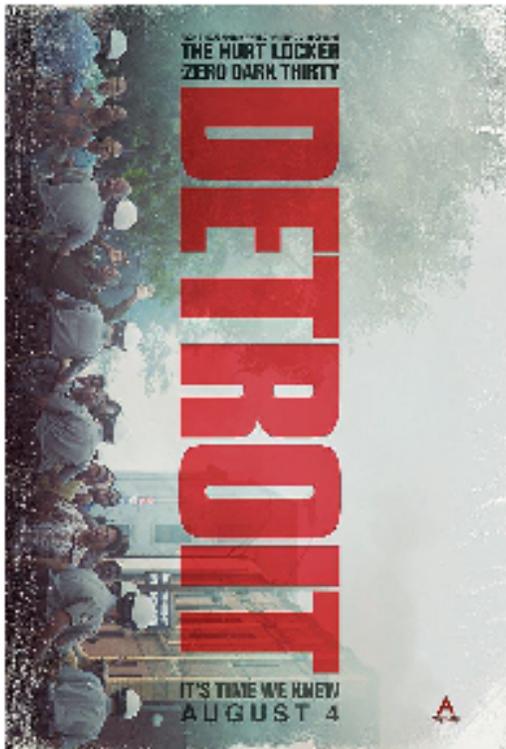
There are many low tech, low cost ways to work with nature on large and small scales – all contributing to building healthy soil, growing nutritious food, preventing floods, droughts and severe weather events. Find out about this big picture of eco-restoration and what you can do that will make a significant contribution in your yards, neighborhoods and town.



Restoring floodplain function: Susie Creek in Elko in northeastern Nevada on Sept. 25, 1989 (left) and Sept. 11, 2015 (right) after 4 years of drought. Nevada is the driest state in the U.S., with less than 10" of annual rainfall.

Come learn about a powerful and growing global ecosystem restoration movement that needs us all.

Come to a FREE viewing of the movie
Detroit on Tuesday, April 24
in Bridgewater.



A fact-based drama set during the 1967 Detroit riots in which a group of rogue police officers response to a complaint with retribution rather than justice on their minds.

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**Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm**  
**in the Upper Parish Hall of the**  
**First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church,**  
**50 School St., Bridgewater**

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Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the First
Parish UU Church and the Bridgewater Citizens for
Civility and Respect.

Third in our Black Lives Matter film series.

APRIL 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday, April 1

9am Choir Practice

10:30am Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher, "Our Easter Story"

Monday, April 2

8:30am MainSpring House lunches prep at FP

7pm Facilities Committee meeting

Tuesday, April 3

7:30pm *Biodiversity for a Livable Planet* Program at First Parish

Thursday, April 5

7pm Social Justice Committee will meet at the church

Saturday, April 7

7:30pm Off the Common Coffee House featuring the Monica Rizzio Band

Sunday, April 8

10:30am Worship with Rev. Beverly "Buffy" Boke, "The Last Shall Be First: The Virtue of Humility"

Monday, April 9

1pm Green Sanctuary Committee will meet at the home of Janet Dye

Friday, April 13

Circle Dinner

Saturday, April 14

8am & 12noon General Church Clean-up

Circle Dinner

Sunday, April 15

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher, "Emerging to Life Again"

Tuesday, April 17

7pm Worship Committee Meeting at First Parish

Wednesday, April 18

7pm Science and Religion Discussion Group in the Hive

Thursday, April 19

7pm Parish Committee Meeting

Friday, April 20

6pm RE Committee Circle Dinner at First Parish

Circle Dinner

Saturday, April 21

Circle Dinner

Sunday, April 22

9am Choir

10:30am Worship with Green Sanctuary Committee, "Kids to Camp"

Tuesday, April 24

11am BSU LBGTA lunch at FPC

7pm *Detroit* movie showing at First Parish

Friday, April 27

7pm T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club, location TBA

Saturday, April 28

6pm Rick Cyge Concert and Circle Song at First Parish Church

Sunday, April 29

9am Choir

10:30am Worship with Rev. Eliza Blanchard, "Blessing of the Animals"

12pm WomenSpirit meeting