

BRIDGING



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

July/August 2017

From the Minister...

What does SUMMER Hold for Us?

Unitarian Universalists are the only people of faith whom God can trust to take the summer off from church. - Anonymous

The minister at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ, quoted that great (UU) philosopher Anonymous the first year we attended the Society as the church year was coming to a close. A few years later we realized that “closing” the Society for the summer was a real impediment to growth, especially as newer members often drifted away during the summer and didn’t return in the fall, so we started holding summer services. I have led services there during the summer a number of times since Deedee & I moved from Ridgewood to the South Shore. Having year-round church has been important to the Ridgewood Society’s growth over the years since we joined in 1993.

The practice of taking the summers “off” apparently started in Unitarian churches as early as the 1840’s when the train lines opened up easy access to resort communities in Maine and many families began spending their summers “up north.” The minister of what is now Arlington Street Church in Boston (where I served my ministerial internship) started bemoaning the empty pews as early as 1845.

Of course, at First Parish we don’t need permission from God to take the summer off – or not. We know how important First Parish is to our members year-round, so we *don’t* take the summer off! Our commitment to dwell together in peace, to speak the truth in love, and to help one another doesn’t end in June. Indeed, our summer gatherings start on **July 9th** at 9:30 with a service by Tony and McKayla – who will undoubtedly have a lot to say about their first trip to our UUA General Assembly at the end of June.

This year we’re also going to try out a new idea that I’ve been hearing about from a number of my colleagues – having a regular church service on **August 13th** that I will be leading. Lots of newcomers to the area start church shopping in August, so we’re going to be inviting new neighbors to a special Open House service. We’re getting our information about who’s recently moved here from the real estate listings in the local paper, and we’re going to be sending out invitations, which we’ll be preparing after the service on **July 30th**. Heat permitting, we’ll hold the service in our beautiful sanctuary and we’ll have the choir and all of the wonderful music we have in every service during the church year.

Of course, we will also be very visible during the **July 4th** celebration with book and rummage sales in the sanctuary, food and drinks outside, and a 300th Birthday float in the parade. (If you haven’t volunteered, there’s still time to let Kat Gillespie know that you can!)

We’re also participating in a **Summer Read** with members of Messiah Baptist in Brockton. Rev. Walker – with whom we’ve had a close relationship over many years – is retiring at the beginning of October, so this will be one of our last chances to experience his enthusiasm and his wonderful smiles. Rev. Walker and I will be co-facilitating a discussion of *What Then Must We Do?: Straight Talk about the Next American Revolution* by Gar Alperowitz. We’ll be meeting at Messiah (80 Legion Parkway in Brockton) on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays in July and August starting on July 13th. Many of us participated in a similar shared read of Brian Stevenson’s *Just Mercy* last spring; our gatherings this summer will be equally lively, provocative, and enlightening. We’ll be reading the first 2 sections of the book (about 50 pages) for our first gathering on July 13th. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Finally, in a bit of shameless self-promotion, I want to let everyone know that a major Retrospective of my wife Deedee Agee’s work is opening at 6pm on Friday, **August 25th** at the South Shore Art Center in Cohasset. We’ll be hanging over 60 framed prints, paintings and drawings for the show and we will be offering well over 100 unframed prints. All sales of Deedee’s art are being donated to a memorial fund in her honor at the Art Center.

In Faith,
Rev. Paul

Minister

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Worship Services in July/August

Worship Committee Announcements:

Summer lay-led services are held in the Upper Parish Hall and begin at 9:30 a.m. They are generally 45 minutes, followed by a time for coffee (or iced tea) and conversation.

Worship Schedule:

July 9 – Worship with McKayla Hoffman & Tony Winters

July 16 – Worship with the Peace Committee

July 23 – Worship with Gordon Hatfield

July 30 – Worship with Yasmeen Thompson

August 6 – TBD

August 13 – Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher for a special summer service welcoming visitors.

August 20 – Worship with the Freedom Food Farm, Raynham. (Note: The service will be at the church, not in Raynham.)

August 27 – Worship with Bobbe Anderson

There will be no Worship Committee meeting in July. We plan to hold our annual committee retreat in August.

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

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE NOTICE

On August 20, The Green Sanctuary Committee invites you to a presentation by **Freedom Food Farm** in Raynham. Freedom Food Farm produces a wide range of holistically grown agricultural products year-round, including: produce, herbs, heritage eggs, flowers, raw honey, grain & beans, hay, straw, and pasture-raised meat. Come learn more about this farming eco-system that nourishes people and protects the environment. To read more about the farm, visit <http://www.freedomfoodfarm.com/>.

[Freedom Food Farm](http://www.freedomfoodfarm.com)

www.freedomfoodfarm.com

Welcome to Freedom Food Farm! We grow and produce fresh, nutritious food year-round in New England using holistic farming practices.

OFFICE UPDATE

The First Parish office will be closed for the month of July. If you should need to have something sent out to the congregation, please forward it to Betty Gilson at gillyflower@verizon.net. See you in August!

Jamie





LET'S *Grow* TOGETHER

SARA WILLIAMS DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2017-2018

Next year's curriculum:

Preschool-Kindergarten

Celebrating Me and My World:
Learning about ourselves and the world around us.

Elementary Grades

Soul Matters Sharing Circle:
Exploring the monthly themes of the church in depth through exciting and fun activities.

Jr. / Sr. High Youth

The Fifth Dimension: A study of social justice topics through episodes of *The Twilight Zone*.

RE SUNDAY AND COMING OF AGE

On Sunday, June 11, we celebrated the RE year and also the culmination of the year-long spirituality study of the Coming of Age teenagers.

Each group shared what they learned throughout the year, and the Coming of Age group shared their credos, or statements of belief.





Friends & Neighbors

Happy 4th of July!

Stop by First Parish Bridgewater UU Church @ 50 School St. for lunch, dessert & our semi-annual rummage & book sale. Tuesday July 4th, 2017, 10 AM – 2 PM.

FRESH SQUEEZED
LEMONADE



Sweets & Treats!

VEGGIE WRAPS,
BURGERS, HOT DOGS,
SAUSAGE & PEPPERS

STRAWBERRY
SHORTCAKE



RUMMAGE
AND BOOK
SALE

Bridgewater
BAMF
Arts & Music Festival
Craft The Art Of Beauty, Design & Expression

Bridgewater civic group strives to help create a climate of civility and respect

A group of local citizens in Bridgewater have gotten together in an organization whose goal is to make Bridgewater a safe, inclusive community, one of civility and respect for all.

The organization - Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect (BCCR) - was established in the winter of 2015/2016 in response to two local incidents in which individuals were verbally accosted in public, apparently due to their appearance and perceived cultural identity – they were thought to be Muslims. These events took place in the Bridgewater Post Office and in Trucchi's Supermarket in West Bridgewater.

In response, BCCR set about working towards its goal of enhancing and creating an atmosphere of community welcome and inclusiveness so that Bridgewater should be a place of civility and respect, where intolerant speech and behavior is unacceptable and ensuring that the town remains a safe and respectful place to live, work, play, conduct business, and attend school.

A Proclamation stating these goals was unanimously approved by the Bridgewater Town Council. While deploring the incidents of hate speech and verbal assaults, the proclamation states that:

"The Town of Bridgewater respects the rights of all persons in our town to:

- live without fear of verbal or physical assault
- exercise freedom of cultural expression through choices of attire, religious practice, and speech

The BCCR group which contains numerous UUs from our parish is now inviting local businesses and civic organizations in Bridgewater to join in this effort by displaying a copy of the Proclamation on their premises so that those who live, work, worship or shop in the town will be reminded about the type of culture of civility and respect that Bridgewater deserves.

The First Parish *Parish Committee* has voted to display the proclamation and to continue this conversation about respect and civility.

For a framed copy of the proclamation, contact Vernon Domingo or the BCCR group at email: contact@civilityandrespect.org



SUMMER READING

Most folks have "summer reading" on their to-do list these days. If you plan on doing your share of page-turning, don't forget that First Parish gets a percentage of each sale when you go through the First Parish website to make a purchase.

Go to www.firstparishbridgewater.org, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Buy from Amazon". That link will take you to the Amazon website. Make your purchase as usual. That's it. Easy.

SHARE THE PLATE DONATIONS

For the months of July and August the Share the Plate selection is the Red Cloud Indian School (RCIS) on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Bridgewater State University has for several years had a connection with the school and two BSU alums have taught there. The Peace Committee is organizing a summer service which will include information about this work. If you would like to write a check for this program, write it to First Parish with Red Cloud in the memo line.

Please see the information elsewhere about the BSU connection Prof. Ben Carson and BSU grad Abigail Wotton have had with RCIS.

In September, we will be supporting Schools on Wheels through our Share the Plate contributions as well as with school-supply backpacks. The program's goal is to support children struggling to stay on track in school while experiencing homelessness. See the SOWMA website: <http://www.sowma.org/about-us>

MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHESES

MainSpring House lunches will be made on the following dates.

Monday, July 3 at 8:45 am July lunches will be made in the UPH.

Monday, July 31 at 8:45 am August lunches will be made in the UPH.

Volunteers and donations always welcome. Contact Betty Gilson for more information - gillyflower@verizon.net.

T"UU"RNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB

At the June 16 meeting we selected two movies for summer viewing related to books we have read.

The first is "Hannah Arendt", a film about Hannah Arendt author of *Eichman in Jerusalem: The Banality of Evil* which we'll show on Friday, July 21 at 7pm at the home of Betty Gilson, 15 Glenmore Ln, Bridgewater.

The second is "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" based on books of the same name by Alexander McCall Smith. This will be shown Friday, August 18 at 7pm also at Betty's house.

The September selection is *Silas Marner* by George Eliot. *Silas Marner: The Weaver of Raveloe is her third novel, published in 1861. An outwardly simple tale of a linen weaver, it is notable for its strong realism and its sophisticated treatment of a variety of issues ranging from religion to industrialisation to community. Date and place TBD.*

CARING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, July 17 at 7pm the Caring Committee will meet at the church. If you have issues for the committee to address, please contact one of the members.

Debbie Baumgarten, Betty Gilson, Mary Hatfield, Louella Mann, Jan Thompson, Korin Zigler

WORSHIP SERVICE JULY 16, 2017

The Peace Committee is organizing this service in which the theme will be the focus of the UUSC Justice Sunday Service - Supporting Communities under Siege. The community we have chosen is the Native American Community in the United States. We have specifically selected the Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Bridgewater State University has a special connection with this school. Two members of the Read to Me, Father program at Old Colony Correctional Center, Ben Carson, an English professor at BSU, and Abigail Wotton, who received her Masters in English at BSU, will give presentations. Ben will talk about the BSU/Red Cloud relationship. Abby will tell about her experience teaching this past year at St. Joseph's School on the reservation.

MUSIC ALLEY

First Parish will again provide refreshments for two of the events at Music Alley in Bridgewater this summer. The dates and musicians are:

July 20: Butch McCarthy & the Gentlemen of Leisure

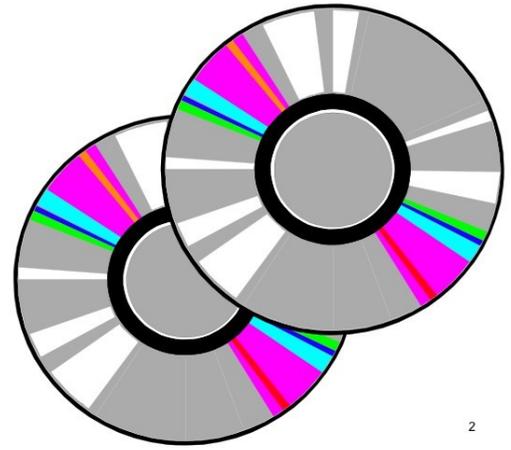
August 24: The Male Bonding Band

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the food, bake cookies and bars, set up, sell, and clean up. Please let Betty Gilson know how you can help at either or both concerts. Watch weekly emails for more details.

Green Sanctuary Committee's Green Tip of the Month

Your Green Sanctuary Committee has decided to help you **recycle** your obsolete CDs, DVDs and jewel cases. Please start sorting and saving and bring them to the box at church anytime between now and October 29, 2017. We will ship them off to the non-profit CD Recycling Center of America.

You ask, "why can't I just put these in my mixed curbside recycle bin?" Read below from CD Recycling Center and if you want more information their website is <http://www.cdrecyclingcenter.org>



Consumer practice

About discs

CDs and DVDs are EVERYWHERE. As new technology emerges, CDs and DVDs are becoming unwanted and obsolete daily. But you can put them to good use. Proper collection, sorting, handling and recycling allows your unwanted discs to become new items molded from the recycled plastic. Home goods, automotive parts, building materials and many more everyday items can be made from the #7, high quality plastic that discs are made from. The key is to keep all the discs together, and separate from lower grade plastics that contaminate them. That's what we do here at the CD Recycling Center of America.

Think of this... If every American mailed just one disc to the center, yes - just one disc... there would be enough discs to fill a freight train that is 234 cars long! Look around your home, office and auto. You have discs everywhere. So if any of your discs become damaged, obsolete or simply unwanted, please do not put them in the trash!

Now you know. You're in the loop. Please set aside your unwanted discs, follow the instructions on our recycling website, and mail them into our collection center. Go forth and recycle!

If you use, sell, promote, distribute, or manufacture compact discs, please learn and promote how to recycle them. Use of our CD Recycling logo is free, and we encourage you to use it to spread the word.

Compacts Discs, when recycled properly, will stop unnecessary pollution, conserve natural resources, and help slow global warming.

Thanks for thinking of the environment and helping us keep unwanted discs out of our landfills and incinerators. Every Disc Counts. Spread the word!

About Curbside

The CD Recycling Center focuses on proper disc collection, sorting, handling and recycling. Our mail-in initiative is important for environmental supporters that recycle their discs, and realize curbside recycling does not properly recycle the #7 plastic that CDs and DVDs are manufactured from. We have zero landfill waste here at the center, and we can achieve this by focusing just on CDs, DVDs and related packaging. Curbside cannot properly collect, sort, store and process a few dozen, hundreds, or even thousands of discs. Since we collect millions, it is very easy for us to successfully recycle them.

BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY AND RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL

In October 2011, ABC News aired an episode of 20/20 called "A Hidden America: Children of the Plains." The program, hosted by Diane Sawyer, according to ABC's website, "takes an in-depth look at the Young Dreamers and Survivors of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation [in South Dakota], fighting against decades of neglect." On the night the program aired, October 14, BSU's former President, Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, was watching. Deeply moved by what he saw, he reached out to ABC News, and, shortly after, met with Diane Sawyer and the producers of the program, who subsequently put Dr. Mohler-Faria in touch with Lakota leaders on Pine Ridge and, importantly, Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J. at Red Cloud Indian School. With time, a partnership developed. In the years that followed, BSU faculty from a number of disciplines began traveling regularly to Red Cloud Indian School to work with the teachers at the school on curriculum design and faculty development. Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson, Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of the Ethnic and Indigenous Studies at BSU, has taken a leadership role in this important collaboration. Over the past three Spring Breaks, Dr. Anderson and Prof. Ben Carson, English professor at BSU, have taken students to Red Cloud Indian School (RCIS) to observe classes and learn about Lakota history and culture. Students from Red Cloud Indian School now spend two weeks over the summer on the BSU campus, participating part-time with BSU's Bridge Program, while taking a class taught by Dr. Anderson and learning about local indigenous history. Because of the BSU/RCIS partnership, two BSU grads, Jillian Smith and Abigail Wotton, have volunteered to teach English at RCIS. Jillian volunteer at RCIS for one year, and Abigail will begin her second year at RCIS this fall.

Abigail Wotton graduated with an MA in English in May 2016 from BSU. Having heard about the BSU/Red Cloud partnership, she signed up for a year of volunteer teaching English at Red Cloud High School. She will be returning to Red Cloud in August for another year in the volunteer program where she will be teaching the 11th grade Literature class and the 12th grade AP Literature class.

THANK YOU RINGERS!

To our newest ringer, Shara Yabroudy, who now makes our group again 'intergenerational', and to all of our tried and true ringers: Debbie Baumgarten, Jan Thompson, Kat Gillespie, Eillen Hiney, Laurie Lessner, Ginger Irish, Karen Reed-Messing, and our ringer ringer Denise Haskins, thank you for your commitment to the tone chimes music through the year. Looking forward to more ringing in the fall. New ringers always welcome. Have a great summer, and keep a song in your heart! xoxoxo Lisa Rue

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 **MAINSRING 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.*

JULY & AUGUST 2017 CALENDAR

Sunday, July 2

6pm Game Night at First Parish

Monday, July 3

8:45am MainSpring House Lunch prep at First Parish

Tuesday, July 4

10am Bridgewater's 4th of July Parade and Arts & Music Festival

Wednesday, July 5

6:30pm Meditation Group UPH

Sunday, July 9

9:30am Worship with McKayla Hoffman & Tony Winters

Monday, July 10

1pm Green Sanctuary Committee meeting at Janet Dye's

Thursday, July 13

Summer Read with Messiah Baptist Church—"What Then Must We Do?: Straight Talk..." by Gar Alperowitz

Sunday, July 16

9:30am Worship with the Peace Committee

Monday, July 17

7pm Caring Committee will meet at First Parish

Wednesday, July 19

6:30pm Meditation Group UPH

7pm Science and Religion Discussion Group at FP

Thursday, July 20

7pm Music Alley featuring Butch McCarthy & the Gentlemen of Leisure

Friday, July 21

7pm T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club will meet at the home of Betty Gilson

Sunday, July 23

9:30am Worship with Gordon Hatfield

Thursday, July 27

Summer Read with Messiah Baptist Church—"What Then Must We Do?: Straight Talk..." by Gar Alperowitz

Sunday, July 30

9:30am Worship with Yasmeen Thompson

Monday, July 31

8:45am MainSpring House lunch prep at First Parish

Wednesday, August 2

6:30pm Meditation Group UPH

Sunday, August 6

9:30am Worship TBA

6pm Game Night at First Parish

Thursday, August 10

Summer Read with Messiah Baptist Church—"What Then Must We Do?: Straight Talk..." by Gar Alperowitz

Sunday, August 13

9:30am Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher for a special summer open house service

Monday, August 14

1pm Green Sanctuary Committee meeting at Janet Dye's

Friday, August 18

7pm T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club at the home of Betty Gilson

Saturday, August 19

Parish Committee retreat in the Hive

Sunday, August 20

9:30am Worship with the Freedom Food Farm, Raynham

Wednesday, August 23

6:30pm Meditation Group UPH

7pm Science and Religion Discussion Group at FP

Thursday, August 24

Summer Read with Messiah Baptist Church—"What Then Must We Do?: Straight Talk..." by Gar Alperowitz

7pm Music Alley featuring the Male Bonding Band

Sunday, August 27

9:30am Worship with Bobbe Anderson

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