



BRIDGING

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

March 2018

From the Minister...

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

I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day. - E.B. White

It can be difficult for us to accept that we live our lives in paradox, not a world of Either/Or but a world of Both/And. If we strive only for happiness, we are sure to encounter sorrow and disappointment and suffering sooner or later. Living only in light is torture, as is living only in darkness. We need both. As Arlo Guthrie put it, "You can't have a light without a dark to stick it into." It is in the alternation of opposites that we live our lives, and it is in finding the balance between them and knowing that neither is unending that we can find what Aristotle called the Golden Mean.

We New Englanders live in a part of the world where the alternation of cold and hot is part of the pattern of our lives year after year. Chinese philosophy speaks of Yin and Yang, the contrast of dark and bright, negative and positive whose interdependence and alternation are part of what creates the energy that underlies all of life and the universe as we know it, perpetually changing and perpetually moving around a still point of balance. Some parts of our Judeo-Christian heritage teach that life here on earth is suspended between Heaven and Hell. This alternation is true of the light we receive from the sun as well, and the balance point between receding darkness and increasing light arrives this year at 12:15 PM on Tuesday, March 20 – a time celebrated by Wiccans and other neopagans as Ostara, a festival that celebrates the season's change from dark winter to brightening spring.

This alternation around a balance point is needed in our own lives as well. The 18th Century Hassidic Rabbi Simcha Bunim Bonhart told this parable:

Everyone must have two pockets, with a note in each pocket, so that he or she can reach into the one or the other, depending on the need. When feeling lowly and depressed, discouraged or disconsolate, one should reach into the right pocket, and, there, find the words: "For my sake was the world created." But when feeling high and mighty one should reach into the left pocket, and find the words: "I am but dust and ashes."

Another traditional tale speaks of King Solomon, who searched for some wisdom that would be true whether he was happy or sad, joyful or sorrowful. He found it in the form of a poor goldsmith's golden ring in which was inscribed, "This too shall pass." William Blake parsed the paradox this way:

Joy and woe are woven fine,
A clothing for the soul divine,
Under every grief and pine,
Runs a joy with silken twine.

It is right it should be so,
We were made for joy and woe,
And when this we rightly know,
Through the world we safely go.

Minister	Rev. Paul Sprecher psprecher@uuma.org 781-210-2016
Directory of Religious Ed	Sara Williams dre.bridgewater@gmail.com 978-257-0240
Parish Committee	
President:	Eileen Hiney Fryleen@verizon.net 508-279-3955
Vice President:	Janet Dye dyedye07@gmail.com 508-697-9662
Clerk:	Janice Stinton jfaith3944@verizon.net
Treasurer:	Kat Gillespie flopsykitty@gmail.com
Members at Large:	Stefan Michaud James Hayes-Bohanan David Wilson
Registrar	Jan Thompson janicethompson22@comcast.net
Church Sexton / Building Rental	Tom St.Thomas street8637@yahoo.com 508-697-8637
Facilities Committee	
Chairs:	Deb Poesepp & Quent Jarvis dpoesepp@gmail.com questjarvis@juno.com
Choir Director/Pianist	Denise Haskins denisehaskins@comcast.net 508-264-7617
Tone Chimes Choir Director	Lisa Rue lisa_rue80@yahoo.com 508-378-8359
Religious Education Committee	
Chair:	Kristen Babcock Jenny Donahue Sonia D'Alarcao Karen Reed-Messing
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 janicethompson22@comcast.net 508-697-2492
Green Sanctuary Committee	
Chairs:	Pat Hart & Deb Baumgarten harts155@comcast.net catsmeow908@verizon.net
First Principle Project	
Convener:	Betty Gilson gillyflower@verizon.net 774-226-0942
Office Administrator	Jamie Doulette firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com

Worship Committee News March 2018



This month's worship theme is **Balance**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

By Andrew Pakula

Let there be light

The light of joy, the light of happiness, and the light of contentment.

May it illuminate our paths and fill our lives with peace.

And let there be dark.

For it is from our dark places that we are brought forward,

Tried and tested,

And impelled toward growth.

It is in these places that we realize compassion and learn to love.

And there was day and there was night.

And there was joy and there was sorrow.

And it was good.

Worship Services in March

March 4 - Rev. Paul and the Stewardship Team: "Balancing Life's Checkbook" We balance our personal checkbooks to make sure that our income and expenses are all accounted for and to make sure we haven't forgotten to write them all down. Our life energies need to stay in balance as well -- as do our congregation's.

March 11 *- First Parish Players: "THE STORY OF US" Join the First Parish Players as they take you on a journey through history, the good and the bad, and the common threads which unite us all. In our conquest of the present and future, what can we learn from the mistakes and needs of the past? What forces must we battle with in order to build the future we need?

March 18 - Rev. Paul: "Earth in the Balance" - Spring Equinox on March 20 brings light and dark back into balance. How can we bring the needs of more than 7 1/2 billion human beings back into balance with the needs of Mother Nature?

March 25 - Green Sanctuary Committee: Water as a Human Right, One Filter at a Time- Clean water is a basic human right. Dr. Jenna Mendell and students from BSU will share their recent experience working with Water for Cambodia to build and install biosand water filters that produce clean drinking water directly from contaminated sources. Come join us to learn more about this environmental justice project and how BSU students are continuing their work here in Bridgewater.

***For March 11: NOTE THAT Spring Forward happens on this Sunday -- Daylight Savings Times begins! Please make sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour so that you join us for church at 10:30!**

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, March 13th 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, Tom St. Thomas, Tony Winters and Rev. Paul Sprecher.



LET'S Grow TOGETHER

SARA WILLIAMS DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR:

- March 4: Religious Education Classes
- March 11: Intergenerational Service, No RE
- March 18: Religious Education Classes
- March 25: One Room Schoolhouse - Egg Decorating

CHILDCARE

is available every Sunday morning from 10-12 and at every First Parish event!

EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

March 17, 2018

2 pm

Upper Parish Hall

The RE Committee will be hosting a special St. Patrick's Day edition of Everybody's Birthday Party this year at First Parish!

At Everybody's Birthday Party, all ages gather together to play games, decorate (and eat) birthday cakes, and get to know one another!

Everyone is welcome!



UUNITED

UUnited Youth Ministry is a youth group of area congregations that meets on the first and third Friday of every month. Youth ages 12-18 are invited to attend UUnited, which is hosted at the Taunton UU church. If you are interested in attending a UUnited get together, please reach out to Sara for more information!

Class in Unitarian Universalism

Our 2nd Class in Unitarian Universalism will be held Sunday March 18 after the service. This class will cover a continued conversation on the "UU Pocket Guide" and will also cover information on First Parish and how it functions through the work of its various committees. The class is designed for people who are thinking of joining First Parish as Active (voting) Members, but all are welcome.

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

Next 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, please look for the sign-up sheet in the Upper Parish Hall, or contact Jan Thompson janicethompson22@comcast.net (508) 697-2492 for more information.

UU ADVOCACY DAY

Join others from First Parish for this annual event. Speak with Rev. Rachel Tedesco or Betty Gilson for more information.



When: Tuesday April 10, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Where: Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston

(We leave for the State House at 1:00 PM)

Tickets are now on sale. Early bird rate \$25 through March 26th

[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.

Social Justice Committee Announcement:



The nationwide march for gun reform is coming to Boston. You are invited to join church members and friends from the Bridgewater area for the "March for Our Lives: Boston", Saturday, March 24, 12 Noon to 5PM on the Boston Common. We'll be taking a bus from the area or public transportation. Exact plans TBD. Contact Rev. Rachel if you want to join us. (Email: revrayted@comcast.net; home phone: 508-378-3904) For those who want to go to the March for Our Lives in Washington, DC, there's a bus leaving from Fall River. Cost: \$140 round trip. Leaving 1:22 AM from FR. Returning 3:23 AM the next day. For more details, go to: <http://rallybus.net/march-for-our-lives/?ReferredBy=157004>. Then scroll down to Select Your Rally Point.

MARCH SHARE THE PLATE

The Share the Plate selection for March is UU Mass Action. This is our state UU social action group, whose Mission Statement is "We believe our faith calls us to change the world." Some of the issues being supported this year are: Climate Justice, End Mass Incarceration, Economic Justice, and Immigrant Rights. It also has Working Groups addressing: Black Lives Matter, Economic Equity in Politics, Gun violence Prevention, First Nations' Rights and LGBTQI Rights.



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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 1 at 7pm the Social Justice Committee will meet at the church to discuss current activities and plans for new projects. This will include the Black Lives Matters film series and other programs. New members are welcome.

MAINSPRING HOUSE LUNCHES

Monday, March 5 at 8:30 am 100 MainSpring House lunches will be prepared in the LPH. Donations and Volunteers always welcome. Speak to Betty Gilson for more information.

CARING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 26 at 7pm the Caring Committee will meet at the church. If you have issues of joys or concerns for the committee to address, please contact a member.

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

T"UU"RNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB

Friday, March 23 at 7pm the Book Club will meet at the church to discuss *Lord Jim* by Joseph Conrad. In a split-second impulse of self-preservation, a young ship's officer abandons his imperiled vessel and its passengers. He survives but suffers a wretched existence. He must go forward facing the scorn of the world and his own guilt, as he seeks atonement for the dishonorable choice he made.

BLACK LIVES MATTER FILM SERIES

Tuesday, March 27 at 7pm at First Parish join the Social Justice Committee and the Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect for a free showing of *42*, the third in the BLM Film Series. In 1947 Jackie Robinson becomes the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era when he was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers and faces considerable racism in the process.



Off the Common Coffeehouse

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



Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 7:30pm

Potluck dinner at 6:30pm

featuring

David Roth

Coming Attractions

April 7 – The Monica Rizzio Band
May 5 – Chris & Meredith Thompson

Admission: \$15

*Enjoy our homemade
Refreshments*

Sign up for open mike!



Earth911®

Need to know Where to Recycle? Need to know How to Recycle?

Find locations near you that accept and recycle more than 350 products & materials, using one of North America's most extensive recycling databases. Find all the information you need on how to properly recycle hundreds of different materials; find out what can be recycled & what steps to take to prepare them for recycling.

The place to find this information
is at Earth911.com on your computer or dial 1-800-CLEANUP.

START SAVING YOUR METAL FOR THE FIRST PARISH

Ninth Annual **FREE** Metal Recycling Event

Saturday, May 5

9am to noon

at First Parish

50 School Street, Bridgewater

to benefit the Bridgewater Food Pantry

Co-sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee

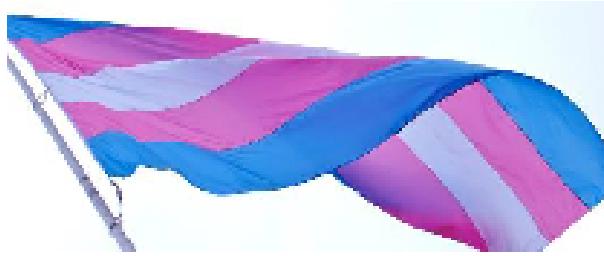
and Bridgewater Recycling, Inc.



Saving the Planet
One Piece of Metal
at a Time

It's time to start collecting scrap metal for our annual 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 nearly **\$1750** in food 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.





Supporting transgender rights: a family's journey

A PRESENTATION BY

Beryl and Vernon Domingo
Bridgewater Massachusetts

Monday March 19th, 2018 at 6:30pm

Bridgewater Public Library, 15 South Street, Bridgewater, MA

This presentation will explore gender identity, transgender rights, and the discrimination that transgender people face in their daily lives. It will also include steps that transgender allies can take to advance social and legal rights for transgender people. As parents of a transgender son, we share our own personal story and our family's journey from acceptance to advocacy.

In 2016, the Massachusetts legislature passed a law to fully protect transgender people from discrimination. This law is now under attack. On the November 2018 statewide ballot there will be a referendum question to repeal the non-discrimination law that protects transgender people in Massachusetts.

We hope that you will become informed on the referendum question and that you will support transgender equality in our Commonwealth.

For details on the 2018 Massachusetts transgender ballot question, go to:
[https://ballotpedia.org/Massachusetts_Gender_Identity_Anti-Discrimination_Veto_Référendum_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Massachusetts_Gender_Identity_Anti-Discrimination_Veto_Référendum_(2018))



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT

In Celebration of Women's History Month

"The ideal history lesson disguised as entertainment!"

We Did It for You! is an inspirational musical that tells of the struggles and triumphs women have undergone to get their basic rights in America. The stories span 400 years, sharing anecdotes from the lives of 20 characters who identify the problems women have been up against on the road towards equality. The show is followed by a Q & A session with the cast and playwright.

Suggested donation is \$5 students, \$10 adults.

Space is limited – please call 508-947-1935 for reservations.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Middleborough Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

WE DID IT FOR YOU!
WOMEN'S JOURNEY
THROUGH HISTORY
MARCH 10 @ 7:00
DOORS OPEN AT 6:15
UU MIDDLEBORO
25 SOUTH MAIN ST.
508-947-1935



The Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice
at Bridgewater State University Presents

#EDJUSTICE MARCH 12 - 23 2018

MARCH 12
MONDAY

Monique Morris
Countering the Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools
12:00 - 2:00 pm Heritage Room, Maxwell Library
Lunch provided, registration free but required at bit.ly/edjustice312

MARCH 13
TUESDAY

Town Hall
Standardized Testing: Friend or Foe of #edjustice?
4:00 - 5:30 pm Auditorium, Dana Mohler Faria Science & Math Center

MARCH 14
WEDNESDAY

Linda Nathan
When Grit Isn't Enough
5:00 - 7:00 pm Small Ballroom, Rondileau Campus Center
Dinner provided, registration free but required at bit.ly/edjustice314

MARCH 15
THURSDAY

Stefanie DeLuca & Susan Clampet-Lundquist
If You Can Weather the Storm: Urban Inequality and the
Transition to Adulthood
12:00 - 2:00 pm Small Ballroom, Rondileau Campus Center
Lunch provided, registration free but required at bit.ly/edjustice315

MARCH 19
MONDAY

Jack Schneider
How Greatschools.org is Making Segregation Worse
12:00 - 2:00 pm Heritage Room, Maxwell Library
Lunch provided, registration free but required at bit.ly/edjustice319

MARCH 20
TUESDAY

Bully
Film Screening
4:30 - 6:30 pm Weygand Hall Room 1047
Free pizza

MARCH 21
WEDNESDAY

Starving the Beast: The Defunding of Public
Higher Education
Film Screening
4:30 - 6:30 pm Heritage Room, Maxwell Library
Free pizza

MARCH 22
THURSDAY

Richard Kahlenberg
Saving Democracy by Having Rich & Poor Children Go to
School Together
12:00 - 2:00 pm Weygand Hall Room 1047
Lunch provided, registration free but required at bit.ly/edjustice322

MARCH 23
FRIDAY

Donovan Livingston
Spoken Word Performance & Contest
3:30 - 5:30 pm Auditorium, Moakley Center
Free pizza, enter the contest at tinyurl.com/BSUsspokenwordcontest



[@bsu_mrisj](http://bsu_mrisj) [BSUInstituteForSocialJustice](http://facebook.com/BSUInstituteForSocialJustice)



Open Minds Speaker Series

Water, Water Everywhere: Climate Vulnerability on the South Shore

what do you want to protect? How to build resilience?

MARCH 16
7:00 PM

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
842 TREMONT ST, DUXBURY
uudux.org



Featured speaker: Darci Schofield
Senior Environmental Planner, MAPC

FREE ADMISSION * REFRESHMENTS



MARCH 2018 CALENDAR

Thursday, March 1

7pm Social Justice Committee Meeting at First Parish

Saturday, March 3

7:30pm Off the Common Coffeehouse featuring David Roth

Sunday, March 4

10:30am Worship with Rev. Paul and the Stewardship Team: "Balancing Life's Checkbook"

Monday, March 5

8:30am MainSpring House lunches prep at FP

7:30pm Facilities Committee meeting

Saturday, March 10

8am Church Clean-Up

12pm Church Clean-Up 2nd shift

7pm "We Did it for You!" musical presentation at UU Middleboro

Sunday, March 11

DST begins — SPRING AHEAD ONE HOUR!

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship with First Parish Players: "THE STORY OF US"

3pm International Woman's Day Tea at FP

Monday, March 12

1pm Green Sanctuary Committee will meet at Janet Dye's

Tuesday, March 13

7pm Worship Committee will meet in the church office

Saturday, March 17

2pm Everybody's Birthday Party in the UPH

Sunday, March 18

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship Rev. Paul: "Earth in the Balance"

12noon Class in Unitarian Universalism

Monday, March 19

6:30pm WomenSpirit meeting

6:30pm Transgender Rights presentation at Bridgewater Public Library

Wednesday, March 21

7pm Science and Religion Discussion Group at FP

Thursday, March 22

7pm Parish Committee Meeting

Friday, March 23

7pm T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club will meet at First Parish

Saturday, March 24

12noon March for Our Lives: Boston

Sunday, March 25

9AM Choir Practice

10:30am Worship with Green Sanctuary Committee: Water as a Human Right, One Filter at a Time

Monday, March 26

7pm Caring Committee will meet at First Parish

Tuesday, March 27

7pm BLACK LIVES MATTER FILM SERIES featuring "42"

**First Parish Church
Unitarian Universalist**
50 School Street
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-2525
www.firstparishbridgewater.org
firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com
firstparishbridgewater.blogspot.com