



# BRIDGING

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

July/August 2018

## From the Minister...

### What Does It Mean to Be a People of *Tolerance*?

*... no one shall be reviled for his religion by anyone..., and it is not permitted that anyone should threaten anyone else by imprisonment or by removal from his post for his teaching. For faith is the gift of God and this comes from hearing, which hearing is by the word of God.*  
- The Diet of Torda, 1568

Greetings from Kansas City! McKayla, Eileen, Frank & I are here for the annual General Assembly of our Unitarian Universalist Association with over 2,600 other Unitarian Universalists. My own week started with Ministry Days, the annual gathering of our UU Ministers' Association. Our keynote presentation there was a celebration of the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Edict of Torda, the first proclamation of Tolerance of Religion, which was promulgated by John Sigismund, the only Unitarian King in history. We heard from a panel representing Unitarians & Unitarian Universalists (U\*U's) from Transylvania, India, Indonesia and Burundi. Rev. Fulgence Ngadijimana, the member of the panel from Burundi, is now living in Canada, a refugee from death threats by religious terrorists.

This presentation raised the question of what U\*U's around the world share beyond having a common name. Our theologies and cultural contexts differ radically, but one common element is that each of these very different manifestations of our faith arose in opposition to other religious movements that declared that only those who believed in particular doctrines would be saved. U\*U's around the world preached radical inclusion and in this way were Universalists rather than exclusivists. U\*U's in Transylvania and Indonesia in particular arose in contexts where Muslims and exclusivist Christians were locked in sometimes deadly conflicts. All of these movements came into being to promote tolerance in the context of conflicting beliefs and to extend radical welcome to their neighbors.

When First Parish was founded 302 years ago, our theology was also an exclusivist form of Christianity. A little less than 200 years ago, the congregation chose a Unitarian minister and thereby committed itself to a Liberal Christianity that refused to teach that neighbors who were not part of the congregation would be consigned to eternal damnation. They committed themselves to a practice of radical inclusion rather than exclusion. This path has not been without its challenges, and we are constantly challenged to consider who is excluded from our beloved community. In recent years, we have worked hard to embody our strong commitment to "Welcoming and Celebrating Lives: Gay, lesbian, straight, transgender, bisexual, queer and intersex," as our order of service proclaims every week. We need to constantly examine how we as a congregation can be truly welcoming to all of our neighbors, and this is one of the themes of our "Welcome Neighbors" services on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. I urge all of you to invite neighbors and especially newcomers to our community to join us as we preach the good news of tolerance and radical inclusiveness that has been the hallmark of our living faith in all of its manifestations around the world.

In Faith,

Rev. Paul

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# Worship Committee News

## Summer 2018

*Thank you all for a wonderful, worshipful year!*



## BETWEEN THE DAWN AND DUSK

Carl G. Seaburg

Between the dawn and dusk of our being,  
let us be brave and loving.

In our little passage through the light,  
let us sustain and forward the human venture  
in gentleness, in service, and in thought.

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**Looking for inspiration this summer?**

In addition to attending one of the many summer worship services, you can subscribe to the UUA's "Braver/Wiser" and receive weekly reflections and prayers like the one you see above in your inbox!

**BRAYER/WISER**

COURAGE AND COMPASSION FOR LIFE AS IT IS

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

## Summer 2018 Worship Schedule

*Please note that all lay led summer services begin at 9:30am. in the Upper Parish Hall. We will resume our regular 10:30am start time on August 17, with services in the Sanctuary.*

**Sunday, July 8 @ 9:30am - Worship with Eileen Hiney & McKayla Hoffman: "Reflections on the UUA General Assembly"**. Eileen and McKayla will report back on their experience at the UUA General Assembly in Kansas City.

**Sunday, July 15 @ 9:30am - Worship with the Peace Committee: "Peacemakers"**. Join us as we share the stories and words of four important modern peacemakers: Mahatma Gandhi, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Peace Pilgrim.

**Sunday, July 22 @ 9:30am - Worship with Kathy Keenan: "The Journey Begins Here: Exploring Instinctive Meditation"**- Meditation is an instinctive state of healing and rest to which we all have access. There are many doorways to meditation—we just have to find the ones that are right for us. We'll explore some different doorways in brief meditations and end with a longer guided meditation, with time for questions and sharing our experiences.

**Sunday, July 29 @ 9:30am - Worship with Gordon Hatfield: "Where Is God?"** – Gordon's sermons are always thoughtful and fascinating.

**Sunday, August 5 @ 9:30am - T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club:** Members of the Book Club will talk about some of their favorite books and read a few brief passages from some. What are your favorites? Maybe you can add to the discussion.

**Sunday, August 12 @ 9:30am - Worship with Bobbe Anderson: "The Way I See It"**. In Bobbe's words: "Unbeknownst to the rest of the world, I have a rich internal life, complete with ongoing self-generated dialogues that I'm going to share with the select few that drop by ~ lucky you!"

**Sunday, August 19 @ 10:30am in the Sanctuary – Welcoming our Neighbors, "Our Beloved Community" worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher.** At a time of increasing division, isolation and loneliness in our society, our beloved community gathers in the spirit of love as we walk the paths of our lives in good times and bad. We welcome all of our neighbors to join us on the journey.

**Sunday, August 26 @ 10:30am in the Sanctuary - Welcoming our Neighbors, "Our Chosen Faith" worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher.** We are an inclusive faith dedicated to learning from many traditions as we deepen our commitment to lives of meaning and purpose.





# LET'S *Grow* TOGETHER

SARA WILLIAMS DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY

Each class presented what they learned during the 2017-2018 church school year on June 10th. Here's an overview of RE Sunday!

### Preschool - Kindergarten

We had a slideshow that provided a pictorial look at the activities that the children engaged in throughout the year, and illustrated how they:

- Explored Unitarian Universalist vocabulary and practices, including: UU, chalice, and sharing of joys and sorrows.
- Learned about themselves and the world through literature, sensory experiences, and hands-on learning.



### Elementary Grades

The elementary group presented the themes which they studied this year in a game show! Participants won t-shirts by identifying the correct theme. Here are the 2017-2018 themes that the students explored:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Welcome   | Perseverance |
| Courage   | Balance      |
| Abundance | Emergence    |
| Hope      | Creativity   |
| Intention | Blessing     |



### Jr. and Sr. Youth

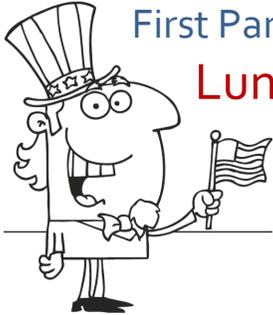
This year in class the group watched episodes of Twilight Zone and related the topics to modern life and issues. The Jr. and Sr. Youth Group worked for weeks preparing for RE Sunday. They rehearsed and filmed a short movie called "The Hive Mind," a modern take on The Twilight Zone's "Five Characters in Search of an Exit."

They were able to watch it for the first time with the congregation of First Parish!



HAPPY

FOURTH OF JULY



First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist, 50 School Street, Bridgewater

**Lunch, Dessert, Cold Drinks, Rummage & Book Sale**

Wednesday July 4th, 2018, 10am – 2pm

Following Bridgewater's Annual 4th of July Parade  
First Parish will offer burgers, hot dogs, sausages and peppers, wraps,  
and a variety of baked goods.

There will be fresh-squeezed lemonade and homemade strawberry shortcake.

Don't forget to visit the Book Sale and

Rummage Sale.



## Off the Common Coffeehouse

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

**Saturdays at 7:30pm**

Potluck dinner at 6:30pm

October 6 - Cosy Sheridan with Charlie Koch  
November 3 - Cliff Eberhardt with Louise Mosrie opening  
December 1 - Greg Greenway  
January 5 - Cold Chocolate  
February 2 - The Boxcar Lilies with Ric Allendorf opening  
March 2 - Emily Mure and The Whispering Tree (split bill)  
April 6 - Caroline Cotter and Emilia Dahlin (split bill)  
May 4 - Grace Morrison

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



## GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE'S GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH

### MAKE FLEAS AND TICKS TAKE OFF!



Every spring and summer, fleas and ticks cause misery to people and animals. On pets, they can spread disease and parasitic infections. Then, once bored with frolicking in fur, they may decide to feast on you! With the sudden spike in cases of tick-borne illnesses like Lyme Disease, it pays to be prepared.

How do you get rid of fleas and ticks with harm to your pet, your family or the planet? Here are some tips:

~ Most commercial flea and tick sprays contain **carbaryl**, which works by attacking pests' nervous systems. But carbaryl also can harm developing fetuses in both animals and humans.

~ Fortunately, there are less-toxic alternatives. Natural bug repellents often contain essential oils like geranium, citronella and lavender. Check out the recipe below from Wellness Mama to make your own.

~ **Prevention first:** remember to wear long sleeves, pants and socks when hiking or gardening and do a "tick check" after to make sure you haven't picked up any unwanted stowaways.

Take a shower after spending time outdoors to wash off any un-embedded ticks and use only unscented deodorant, soap and shampoo.

To keep fleas off pets, add garlic and brewer's yeast to pets' meals, which makes pets taste bad to bugs. Many such products are sold in pet supply stores. But pets may need to take these remedies for several weeks before they work.

**Don't overlook the basics.** Keep your pet clean. Use a fine-toothed comb or lint-roller on your pet to remove existing fleas. And don't forget to dust and vacuum regularly. Fleas simple hate clean homes.

**NOT SO FUN FACT:** for every flea found on your pet, there may be as many as 100 more lurking nearby!

And now the recipe:

#### HOMEMADE BUG SPRAY

30 drops geranium essential oil  
30 drops citronella essential oil  
20 drops lemon eucalyptus essential oil  
20 drops lavender essential oil  
10 drops rosemary essential oil  
1 TBSP vodka or rubbing alcohol  
½ cup natural witch hazel  
½ cup water (or vinegar)  
1 tsp vegetable glycerin (optional)

Place essential oils in a glass spray bottle. Add vodka or alcohol and shake well to combine. Pour in witch hazel and shake to combine. Add vegetable glycerin, if using. This is not necessary but helps everything stay combined. Add water (or vinegar) and shake again. Shake before each use as the oils and water will naturally separate some over time.

## PEACE SERVICE

Sunday, July 15 the Peace Committee will lead a service on Peacemakers. Join us as we share the stories and words of four important modern peacemakers: Mahatma Gandhi, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Peace Pilgrim.

## BOOKCLUB SERVICE

Sunday, August 5 the members of the T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club will talk about some of their favorite books and read a few brief passages from some. What are your favorites? Maybe you can add to the discussion.

## SHARE THE PLATE DONATIONS

For July and August the Share the Plate donations will be to pay for the food for MainSpring House lunches. If you would like to make a specific donation to the lunches, please write a check to the First Parish Social Justice Committee with MainSpring House in the memo line.

## MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHES

Monday, July 2 at 8:30 am MainSpring House lunches will be prepared in the LPH.

Monday, August 6 at 8:30 am MainSpring House lunches will be prepared in the LPH.

Volunteers will prepare 100 lunches for the homeless shelter. Volunteers and donations are always welcome.

Speak to Betty Gilson to offer help. [gillyflower@verizon.net](mailto:gillyflower@verizon.net)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be held on Thursday, August 2 at 7pm at the church. New members and suggestions are welcome. Please contact Rev. Rachel Tedesco [revrayted@comcast.net](mailto:revrayted@comcast.net) and/or Betty Gilson [gillyflower@verizon.net](mailto:gillyflower@verizon.net). (There is no meeting in July.)

## T"UU"RNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB

Friday, July 27 at 7pm the T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club will meet at the home of Betty Gilson, 15 Glenmore Ln, Bridgewater to watch the film Darkest Hour. This film tells the story of Winston Churchill facing one of the most difficult times in his life, in the early days of WW II.

Friday, August 24 at 7pm the Book Club will meet at the home of Betty Gilson to view a film related to a book read by the group. Watch weekly emails for more information.

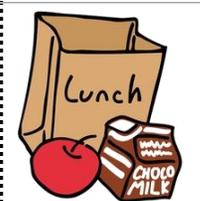
The September selection for the group is The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, a nonfiction book by Tom Wolfe that was published in 1968. The book is remembered today as an early – and arguably the most popular – example of the growing literary style called New Journalism.

## 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 2018 CALENDAR

Monday, July 2

8:30am MainSpring House lunches prepared and delivered

Wednesday, July 4

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

10am First Parish Annual Snack Bar, Book & Rummage Sale

**Sunday, July 8**

9:30am Worship with Eileen Hiney & McKayla Hoffman: "Reflections on the UUA General Assembly"

**Sunday, July 15**

9:30am Worship with the Peace Committee: "Peacemakers"

**Sunday, July 22**

9:30am Worship with Kathy Keenan: "The Journey Begins Here: Exploring Instinctive Meditation"

Friday, July 27

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

**Sunday, July 29**

9:30am Worship with Gordon Hatfield: "Where Is God?"

Thursday, August 2

7pm Social Justice Committee will meet at the church

**Sunday, August 5**

9:30am T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club

Monday, August 6

8:30am MainSpring House lunches prepared and delivered

**Sunday, August 12**

9:30am Worship with Bobbe Anderson: "The Way I See It"

**Sunday, August 19**

10:30am in the Sanctuary – Welcoming our Neighbors, "Our Beloved Community" Rev. Paul Sprecher

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