

BRIDGING

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

June 2017

From the Minister...

What does it mean to be "A Community of Joy?"

Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.
- Thich Nhat Hanh

One of the common stereotypes about the Puritans of New England is that they were dour, joyless people whose lives were difficult and who believed that they were sinful beings who might well end up in the fires of hell. Perhaps some of those who founded our First Parish 300 years ago – almost 100 years after the Pilgrims founded Plymouth – felt that way. The Calvinist doctrine on which the Puritan faith was founded taught that human beings are "totally depraved" and that only a few are predestined to go to heaven when they die.

The founders of our Unitarian and Universalist faith traditions were to in many cases repulsed by these doctrines that seemed to condemn most of humankind to suffering in life and after. William Ellery Channing, the first Liberal Christian to accept the name "Unitarian" to describe his doctrine, recalled a Sunday as a child when he had sat through a fire and brimstone sermon in terror, convinced that he would be damned for eternity. As they left the service, his father said with great pleasure, "Fine doctrine, that!" Channing was astonished – how could his father have been so pleased with such dire pronouncements? Channing chose uplift rather than condemnation in his sermons. Hosea Ballou denounced Calvinism and preached that if God is Love (as Jesus says) then God could not possibly choose to torture human beings for eternity. He said that the goal of religion was to "happify" people rather than to terrify them.

Hence our own Unitarian Universalist beliefs do not include the teaching of Original Sin, for example. We don't believe in eternal damnation, and we believe that our life on earth should be a source of joy.

We have to be careful not to be too self-satisfied, though. Most of us have had significant advantages in our lives, despite setbacks, and may be optimistic partly because of our privileges. As Paul Simon puts it, "Some folks' lives roll easy, some folks' lives never roll at all." Where is the joy for the mother whose child is killed or in jail, the worker who is fired because jobs are being outsourced, or someone forced to work two or three jobs to eke out bare survival?

Joy doesn't necessarily come easy. There are times in our lives when we are mourning or angry or depressed and it seems the joy will never come to us again. And then, every so often, we look back on the greatest hardships and find that afterwards there is joy to be found because we have survived the worst and come through it. The book of *Psalms* in the Jewish Bible says, "weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning." (30:5).

Not infrequently we are surprised by joy. It's not something we can summon at will. But it's good to know that joy is possible, and joy is possible because love is possible. Joy has something to do with being part of a community, a family, a relationship. As Mark Twain puts it:

"To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with."

We'll be exploring our Universalist history more fully in our June 4th service and our church year ends with a joyous Flower Communion on June 18th – don't forget to **bring flowers!**

In Faith,
Rev. Paul

Minister

Rev. Paul Sprecher
PSprecher@uuma.org
781-774-0086

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
dyedyeo7@gmail.com
508-697-9662

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

Treasurer: Kat Gillespie
flopsykitty@gmail.com

Members at Large:

Andrew Harding
James Hayes-Bohanan
Janice Stinson

Church Sexton / Building Rental

Tom St. Thomas
street8637@yahoo.com
508-697-8637

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
Laurie Lessner

Community Minister

Rev. Rachel Tedesco
revrayted@comcast.net
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

Chair: Janet Dye
dyedyeo7@gmail.com
508-697-9663

First Principle Project

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

Nominating Committee:

Deb Baumgarten
Scott Gillespie
Robert Messing

Office Administrator

Jamie Doulette
firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com
508-846-7778

Worship Services in June

The theme for June is "Joy".

June 4 – Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher: "Free from Fear; Universalism 101"— How did we get the second half of our Unitarian Universalist name? And what does that story tell us about our Living Faith?

June 11 – Celebrate the Coming of Age Ceremony with our youth and worship with the Religious Education Program. Lay Worship Leader: McKayla Hoffman.

June 18 – Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher: Together we will hold a Flower Communion, marking the end of the regular church year. Please **bring flowers** with you to share in the communal vase. Lay Worship Leader: Eileen Hiney.

Summer lay-led services:

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.

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 meetings in June or July. We will 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.

The Annual Goods & Services Auction is almost here!

Saturday, June 10th is the evening for one of the most fun and exciting events at our church. Don't Miss It! Make it an evening for you and your family.

6 pm - Wine & Cheese, Silent Auction

7 pm - Live Auction with Jenny Donahue as auctioneer.

Intermission will feature fabulous homemade desserts!



Our annual auction is one of First Parish's biggest fundraisers and a WHOLE LOT of FUN! DON'T MISS IT. Make it an evening for you and your family. (Child care will be available.)

There are wonderful things to eat, fun places to go, beautiful crafts, and useful services. all for sale to the highest bidder, and many wallet sizes. It's a once-a-year opportunity to buy fun goods and services that keep on giving. A BIG WIN for you and First Parish at the same time.

**We are still accepting your goods and services! Please, please submit your donation today. If you didn't get a paper form, don't worry. You can fill out our online form at:

<http://tinyurl.com/kmalsjz>

~Laurie Lessner & the auction committee

First Parish Unitarian Universalist—Bridgewater, MA
Notice of Annual Meeting
12:00 noon, Sunday, June 11, 2017
Sanctuary, 50 School St.

Agenda

1. Call to Order by the President of the Parish Committee, Eileen Hiney
Quorum Check by Registrar, Jan Thompson
2. Lighting of Chalice & Opening Words - Rev. Paul Sprecher
3. Approval of Minutes: Stefan Michaud, Clerk
Previous Annual Meeting
Special Congregational meeting December 4, 2016
Special Congregational meeting March 19, 2017
4. Minister's Report
5. Reports of Officers, Trustees, District Delegates, and Committees. (Oral reports, if requested, otherwise reports as printed in Annual Report Booklet.)
6. Nominating Committee Report
7. Election of Nominating Committee Slate (or floor nominations)
 - Parish Committee Officers and Members
 - Trustees
 - Registrar
 - Nominating Committee Members
8. Review, Discussion, and Vote on the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget
9. New Business: Proposed Amendment to By-Law Article VII, Paragraph 8, which would raise the \$1000 cap on expenditures by the Parish Committee.
10. New Business: Approval of contract for painting of exterior of Parish Hall
11. New Business: Approval of delegates to UUA 2017 General Assembly
12. Adjournment



LET'S *Grow* TOGETHER

SARA WILLIAMS DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

JOY

This month our theme at church is **Joy**. Joy is the feeling of happiness and excitement. Joy is important for Unitarian Universalists. We like being together. The path of joy is connection: being together.

We share our joys and sad times together.

Do you have a joy that you would like to share?

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 4** RE Classes
- June 11** RE Sunday and Coming of Age Ceremony
- June 18** Flower Communion

MAY RECAP

The monthly theme for May was Embodiment, and the classes explored what Unitarian Universalists embody through the seven principles.

The curriculum encouraged the children and youth to look within to determine what we embody, and whether that matches our personal beliefs.

The children were also able to practice embodying nature, and had discussions focusing on the First Principle: The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person.

RE SUNDAY

The culmination of the religious education year will be celebrated on **June 11** during the church service.

Enjoy a wonderful service planned by the youth group -- showcasing what the children and youth have learned throughout the year.

Come support the youth group as they present their credos as a part of their year-long **Coming of Age** program and ceremony!



From the Social Justice Committee:

Our last SJC meeting for the season will be Thursday, June 1 at 7pm at the church.

Our Share the Plate recipient for June will be MainSpring House to help fund our year-round Monday lunch program.

Announcement from the New England Region UUA's May newsletter:

Join Meck Groot, Justice Ministries Lead, and Cora McCold on Thursday evening, June 8 for [Justice Ministry Matters](#), a webinar for those who want to reignite your justice work with community practices rooted in purpose and gifts. This webinar is free for those who attended our Saturday program of the New England Regional Assembly on April 22. Registration is required to attend.

This webinar will run from 7 to 8:30pm. Click on the link above for more details. Please contact Rev. Rachel a.s.a.p. if you would like to view this webinar with her.



SCIENCE & RELIGION

The 'Science and Religion Discussion Group' meets every third Wednesday of the month. This month's meeting is on Wednesday, June 21 at 7pm in the Hive. The text we are reading is "The American Slave Coast, A History of the Slave Breeding Industry" by Ned Sublette. Please join us for animated discussion; all are welcome.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 1 at 7pm the Social Justice Committee will meet at the church to work on plans for the fall.

MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHES

Monday, June 5 at 8:45 am MainSpring lunches will be made in the LPH. Volunteers and donations are always welcome.

T"UU"RNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB/ DATE

The meeting to discuss the May Book Club choice will be Friday, June 9 at 7pm at the church. The selection is "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, the #1 New York Times bestseller from Colson Whitehead, The Underground Railroad is a magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil.

GREEN SANCTUARY TIP

This summer, before reaching for potentially-toxic commercial products, try one or more of these natural remedies for unwanted creatures indoor and out.

Natural pesticides for INDOOR use

- **Plant-based Oils (Botanical Pesticides)** - offer a wide variety of indoor and outdoor uses against every indoor pest species. Dust, liquid and aerosol formulations are now available.
- **Natural dusts** - are made from naturally occurring minerals like silica and boric acid, or plants. Use these in dry places where long-term control is needed.
- **Boric Acid** - or borate insecticide is also available as liquid or powder (natural dust) for use mainly in structural pest control against termites, carpenter ants and powderpost beetles, and in baits for cockroaches.

Natural pesticides for GARDENS

- **Neem Oil** - is used in gardens and landscapes against insects that chew on plants such as black vine weevil.
- **Insecticidal Soap** - is used in gardens and landscapes against a variety of small, soft-bodied pests like aphids, spider mites and scale crawlers.
- **Rotenone** - is an older, broad-spectrum natural insecticide used for a variety of garden and landscape pests. It is available as a powder or liquid.
- **Spinosad** - is a newer, broad-spectrum insecticide for use in gardens and landscapes. See the labelled uses listed on this page.
- **Pyrethrum** - is an older, broad-spectrum insecticide for use in gardens.
- **Diatomaceous Earth** - Diatomaceous earth is a dry, powdery material (natural dust) derived from the shells of marine organisms. It is used mainly to deter and kill crawling pests both indoors and outdoors.

At a minimum every gardener should be armed with insecticidal soap plus at least one relatively broad spectrum but low toxicity/biorational pesticide like neem oil, spinosad or pyrethrum. These natural pesticides will handle most of your garden's pest control needs in a safe and eco-friendly manner.

From http://www.livingwithbugs.com/natural_pesticides.html

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.

June 2017 CALENDAR

Thursday, June 1

7pm Social Justice Committee Meeting at First Parish

Sunday, June 4

9am Choir Practice

10:30am Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher, "Free from Fear; Universalism 101"

7pm First Parish Players Cast Party

Monday, June 5

8:45am MainSpring House lunches prep at FP

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

7:30pm Facilities Committee meeting

Wednesday, June 7

6:30pm Meditation Group UPH

Thursday, June 8

7pm Justice Ministries Matter webinar

Friday, June 9

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

Saturday, June 10

6pm First Parish Annual Goods and Service Auction, Live Auction at 7pm

Sunday, June 11

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship with RE—Coming of Age Ceremony

12noon First Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 18

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship—Flower Communion with Rev. Paul Sprecher

Wednesday, June 21

6:30pm Meditation Group UPH

7pm Science and Religion Discussion Group at FP

Thursday, June 22

7pm Parish Committee meeting

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