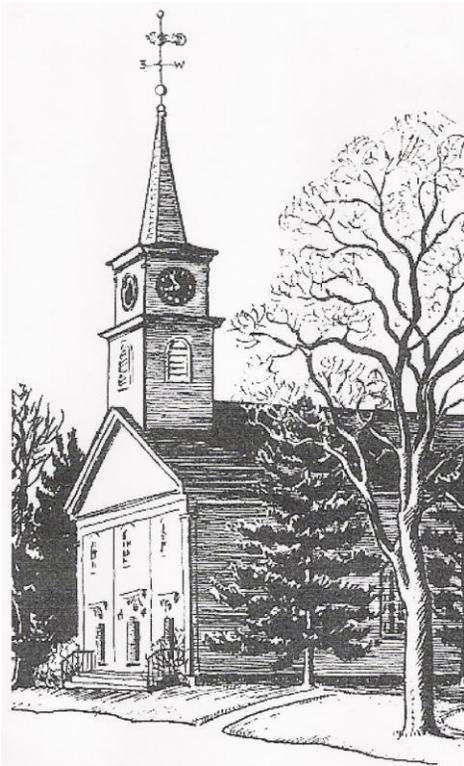


The Spire



The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell

24 River Street

P.O. Box 152

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

phone 781-659-7122

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April 6, 2016

Volume XIV, Issue 12

www.firstparishnorwell.org

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless otherwise indicated

April 10: **Youth Sunday**

The Youth Group have planned, and will be leading, this service. The youth will be discussing the importance of being, and having role models, along with seeking to be our best selves. Be prepared for some different, and familiar music, readings, and sources.

April 17: **A Celebration of Earth Day**

According to our Christian Scriptures, humans are supposed to be stewards of our earth. More and more of us are heeding this call but it takes work and commitment. How can we recreate our connections to the earth and inspire other to do the same? This is an Outreach Sunday and our offering will be dedicated to the Norris Reservation

April 24: Joanne Howard, pulpit guest
This service will focus on Holocaust Remembrance Day. We will honor the victims, as well as a small group of Unitarians who organized a rescue effort.

May 1: **RE Sunday**

Led by Rev. Lise and Julian, this will be a multigenerational Sunday of appreciation for religious education and all those who help make it so. We'll also add some spring celebration into the mix.

Can you provide a pulpit arrangement for an upcoming service? Would you like to host Coffee Hour? How about being an usher? Would you like to assist Rev. Lise with lighting the chalice? There are still open spots for the rest of the church year. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Parish Hall, or you may contact Hope in the Church Office.

OFFICE HOURS (September to mid-June):

Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 am-1 pm

Friday: 9 am-12 pm

PHONE: 781-659-7122

FAX: 781-659-7939

HOME PAGE: www.firstparishnorwell.org

Minister:

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, x11

lsberry@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education:

Julian Baptista, x12

dre@firstparishnorwell.org

Music Director: Gingy Grimes

Office Staff:

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10

office@firstparishnorwell.org

Donna McDonald, Bookkeeper, x14

donna@firstparishnorwell.org

Parish Committee 2015-2016:

Co-Chairs: Jim Pickel and Deanna Riley

Members: Noel Constantino, Sue Keady,
Mary Nickerson, Elizabeth Robey and Les
Taylor

Treasurer: Marta Reese

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of THE SPIRE is **Monday, May 4, 2016**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.

LISE'S LETTER

Life is never dull, is it? Not in the long run anyway. And unexpected things happen more often than not. Take today for instance (April 4). We are supposed to be two weeks into spring and there's six inches of snow on the ground! In some ways it's interesting that we even have the word "unexpected" in our language, when transitions and new things are happening all the time. But then the human species doesn't seem to like change very much—it's a survival issue. New and different things can bring danger, possibly even death, so it's better to stay with the tried and true rather than take a chance on something new.

Perhaps it's because of this continual struggle with the unexpected and wanting to keep things stable that our ancestors created yearly rituals to help us through the transitions. We have festivals of light during the darkest part of winter to acknowledge the darkness and to provide hope that the light will again return. Groundhog Day is another time to remind us that spring is on the way, but also a gentle reminder that we aren't out of the woods yet because winter might be lasting a little longer. (Does anyone remember? Did the groundhog see her shadow this year? ☺) There's May Day or Beltane to celebrate the coming of summer. In France and Quebec they celebrate the nativity of St. John the Baptist on June 24 with bonfires and merry making. It's interesting how close that holiday is to the summer solstice, don't you think?

There are rituals like these in other traditions beyond the Christian, Pagan and secular practices. But they all have the same idea in common: helping people to recognize that there are transitions in life. Change is inevitable; it happens whether we want it to or not.

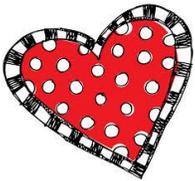
This year in our church life has definitely been one of change. Simply by calling me as your minister we all introduced a big transition into our lives. Since I arrived we've seen some differences in our Sunday worship services,



we've gone to an electronic Spire and introduced the iSpi. We're re-establishing our Committee on Shared Ministry, we're going to have Sunday services this summer, and we're also re-establishing our Membership Committee and Sunday greeters. What "unexpected" thing will happen next?

As I reflect on the wisdom of our ancestors in creating the many rituals of change and transition that happen throughout the year, I'm grateful that we've continued these practices in our contemporary lives. They give us a moment to pause, breathe, and acknowledge what is happening around us. Within that breathing space we can find the calmness of acceptance and the resilience to continue. And, by doing so in our ritual times, we learn that we can take this practice into the rest of our lives as well. I'm also grateful that my family and I have landed in a wonderful congregation that knows how to breathe and then continue on with humor and love. May we continue to do so for some time to come.

Blessings and love,
Lise



CARING CORNER

Help us to keep in touch, celebrate the happy moments in life and support you during the difficult times. Please send your news to Hope Weinman in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.com, or contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team (Sue Robinson, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Marcia Babcock, Noel Constantino, Betsey Detwiler, Joanne Howard and Joyce Hockman).



BOWLING NIGHT

Saturday, June 11 from 7 - 8pm at Hanover Boston Bowl on Rte. 139. More information to come...

SCHOOL VACATION WEEK SCHEDULE

Rev. Lise will be away during school vacation week, April 18-25. The Church Office will be open that week on **Wednesday, April 20** only. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, April 26.



FROM THE OFFICE STAFF

The Church Office is a busy place- answering phones, greeting visitors, and coordinating the myriad activities of a busy parish.

To help us help you:

- If you are attending a meeting in the office, please reset the furniture to its usual arrangement at the end and dispose of your empty cups and plates.
- Please respect Hope's and Donna's workspaces. They are happy to lend their scissors, scotch tape, pens etc. as long as the items get returned.
- If you are leaving something in the office, please leave a note with the item. Is someone picking it up? Should we file it? Mail it? Reorder it?
- Hope and Donna enjoy meeting members of the First Parish community. Please stop by, say hello and introduce yourself! If you have a quick question or something you need help with, we will do our best to help you. If you have a more in-depth question or project, we encourage you to call or email ahead for an appointment so that we can make sure we can give you our full attention.





ATTENTION, COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

Annual reports from each elected and standing church committee are due **Friday, May 20**. If your report is not submitted by the deadline, you will be in charge of copying and distributing it yourself. Further information will be sent out shortly, but contact Hope in the Church Office in the meantime with any questions.



APRIL NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The 'Path To Membership' class is scheduled: Are you interested in becoming a member? Learning about what that means? Our Rev. Lise Adams Sherry will be facilitating a two part Path to Membership conversation on two **Sundays, April 10 and 17** from 11:30-1 in the Fogg Parlor. (If the 17th is a concern due to the start of April school vacation, we can talk about that on the 10th.) Childcare will be available. The class will discuss Unitarian Universalism, spiritual paths, history of First Parish of Norwell, a chance to hear from some committee chairs, conversation about the meaning of membership, and an opportunity to sign our Parish membership book if so desired. Come if you're curious, come if you're seeking conversation, come if you want to continue your journey. "Come, come whoever you are, wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving. Ours is no caravan of despair. come yet again come....." Please let Rev. Lise or Gabe Carroll know if you are plan to attend. Thank you!

Parish Photo Directory Update:

They are here! They are beautiful! First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you to Betsey Detwiler, Kevin Houston, Les Taylor for their countless hours staffing photo shoots, compiling information, editing information,

photoshopping, communicating with the publication company, and on and on. Thank you to Bob Sutter for his graphic design work and to and to the church volunteers who staffed the check-in table at the fall photo sessions: Chris and Peg Kitchenham, Deanna Riley, Sue Robinson and Jack Wallace. Thank you to Hope Weinman for your ongoing administrative help over the months on the project. Thank you to all for your time and your attention to detail. The work is done! These directories are a keepsake!

Your directory, labeled with individual or family name(s), will be available in the office, during regular church office hours in April; see Hope. They will be also be available during Coffee Hours on Sundays in April; see membership committee.

Greeters:

Thank you to those who have come forward to be greeters for our service. You will see their friendly faces on Sundays. I've also heard from a couple of people who have committed to helping next year. More are welcome!

Name tags:

If you are without a name tag and would like one, please see one of the members of the committee and we will get one for you. In the meantime, we are working on re-starting the rollout of "new" blue name tags. Stay tuned!

Any questions? Please ask!

Gabe Carroll, Membership Committee chair
Members: Betsey Detwiler, Shastin Garland, Chris Kitchenham, and Mary Nickerson



YOUNG ADULT GROUP FORMING

First Parish of Norwell has a YA Group! We are a gathering of young adults, ages 18+, who meet weekly on Sunday evenings for fellowship (and cookies). Our aim is to provide a lay-led space for young

adults (or young adults at heart), which may include readings, activities, sharing of experiences, or just a friendly face. Our topics are directed by the interests of the group, and we welcome new additions! Other events and activities may also be scheduled outside our normal meeting time. Contact Elizabeth Robinson at eerob2001@yahoo.com to be added to the email list, or just come by, starting April 3: Sunday evenings at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor.



WE'RE HAVING A BIRTHDAY!

Next February 2, 2017, First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist will be **375 years old!** And we plan to celebrate all year long - from September, 2016 to June, 2017.

A 375th committee has been formed and is brainstorming ideas to make this a year to remember. We want your input and help - with ideas, resources, time, etc. Would you like to serve on the committee or help with an event? Contact the Church Office!

Our first goal is to choose a theme and logo that will symbolize who we were - are - will be. We want to have that logo as a banner on the building for opening Sunday in September and printed on T-shirts, flyers, programs, web page, Facebook, etc. Send us your ideas for both a theme and a logo via email to Sue Robinson at artsue45@hotmail.com or drop off at the Church Office (look for the 375th box).

We will be having a monthly column in the Spire to keep everyone updated on plans. Contact any of our committee for further information: Sue Robinson, chair, Roberta Fairbanks, Lindsey Houston, Joanne Howard, Debi Meddaugh, John Meddaugh, Elizabeth Robey, Elizabeth Robinson, Dexter Robinson, and Rev. Lise Adams Sherry.



ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES IN APRIL AND MAY

The April book review will be taking place at Helen Keeler's home in Marshfield on **Wednesday, April 20** at 10 am. Once again we are pleased to welcome back Winnie Lou Rounds as our reviewer. Please bring a sandwich. Desserts and beverages will be served after the program.

The Alliance's Annual Buffet Luncheon and Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 4** at 12 noon in the Fogg Parlor and Parish Hall. A sign-up sheet for sandwiches will be at the April book review. This is a wonderful way to welcome spring and to end the Alliance year. (Please remember to pay your dues at the luncheon.) We hope to see all of you there!

Potluck Dinner



MEN'S DINNER

Due to unsafe driving conditions, the next Men's Potluck has been *rescheduled* to next **Monday, April 11** at John Carpenter's house (58 Meadowbrook Road, Norwell). Appetizers will be starting at 6:00, with dinner starting around 6:30. Bring your favorite beverage for yourself Sign up to bring an appetizer, dessert or side dish to share. The host will provide the main course. Please let John know what you are bringing (781-826-8553). If you can provide a ride for someone, that would be very generous.



OUTSIDE FIRST PARISH

Your small but mighty Denominational Affairs Committee recently attended the Ballou-Channing District (BCD) Annual Meeting, along with Rev. Lise and Jim Pickel. Here were our takeaways:

- Our district, along with others in New England, is now part of the New England Region of the UUA. You can find out more about events, services, etc here: <http://www.newenglanduua.org/>.
- BCD is staying BCD for now, although most of the housekeeping now takes place at the regional level by paid staff. Best practices for communication between the UUA, the region and our district is still a work in progress.

So what does the district and region do? Great question!

- Watch this 2 minute video about the Annual Program Fund for some great information on where our support goes: <https://uuacdn.s3.amazonaws.com/videos/apf-prezi-short-version.mp4>
- More specifically in New England, and on the South Shore, we collaborate between churches for things like youth ministry, union services, and community outreach.
- We provide local scholarships and grants for programs and individuals.
- We meet as smaller “clusters” to discuss, learn and collaborate.

Upcoming events:

- Advocacy Day with UU Mass Action: April 12 - 9:30 am-4:00 pm starting at the Arlington Street Church and concluding at the State House
- General Assembly: June 22-26 in Columbus, OH. If you have a topic or issue you’d like us to focus on, or learn more about, while we are there, please reach out to me or Alex Gordon!

Thank you,
Elizabeth Robinson



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Outreach Sunday in March benefitted the Renew Crew. Thanks to the generosity of you parishioners, \$735 was collected, which the committee then raised to \$1,000. Here is the thank you note from Jack Christensen:

“Thank you for the wonderful news that our Renew Crew will be receiving \$1,000 for its use to help provide handicap ramps and other miscellaneous carpentry services to members of surrounding communities, where needs and lack of financial wherewithal coexist. This support from First Parish of Norwell will enable our volunteers to serve additional individuals and families. I am pleased to note that Scott Babcock, Jim Pickel, Dave Hockman, in addition to myself, are members of First Parish. Nelson Sherry is also joining our team. Again, thank you for this, and earlier, gifts. Jack Christensen”

We have a new, full Partakers’ team to support a prisoner! Thank you to Joyce and Dave Hockman and Lise and Nelson Sherry, who had their orientation meeting with Arthur Bemberry, the Partakers’ director, this past Sunday.

The April Outreach Sunday will be on **April 17**. Alex Gordon will give a short talk about a place near and dear to many of our hearts—the Norris Reservation, part of the Trustees or Reservations.

Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, co-chairs
Members: Marcia and Scott Babcock, Gabe Carroll, Debbie Chase, Penny Corbett, Pat Crumley, Alex Gordon, Mary Mercier, Bill Montuori, Lorna Phillips, Elizabeth Robey (Parish Committee liaison), and Jack Wallace.



FROM THE DRE

We have a whole bunch of great events and services coming up this month, and we can't wait to see you. If last Sunday is any indication, nothing can keep us away!

Talent Show:

First up, get practicing for our First Parish Talent Show! On **Saturday, April 9** from 5 to 7 pm you can share your considerable talents with your First Parish family. Whether you're a singer, a dancer, a magician, or anything else, come on out and show us what you can do! Please email me at JulianBaptistaMusic@gmail.com if you wish to sign up. All are welcome.

Youth Sunday:

Then, on **Sunday, April 10**, our Youth Group will be leading the Sunday worship service. They will be speaking on the concept of role models, and the sneak peak I've had of their sermon has been great! The service will follow a similar order to our usual services, with some changes that you'll have to come to see yourself.

Heifer Project Visits FPN:

On **Sunday, April 17** we will have the pleasure of hosting a volunteer from the Heifer Project organization for our Time for All Ages, and talking with our children during the service. They will be speaking about the good work that Heifer Project does, and how we can help their cause.

Adult RE Offering:

For adults, we have a new Adult RE class starting on April 13. On the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** of each month from 7-8:30pm, through the end of the church year I will be leading a program called "Spirit of Life" on UU spirituality. Spirit of Life workshops offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each focuses on a different aspect

of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song "Spirit of Life." Like the song, the workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop.

RE Recognition:

Finally, on **Sunday, May 1**, the RE program will be taking over the Sunday worship service. Rev. Lise and I will be leading the worship, and all of the Sunday School classes will be taking part. If your child would like a larger part in the service (playing a song, performing a reading, etc.) please email or talk with me.

See you at church!

Julian Baptista

Director of Religious Education



MEDITATION CLASS BEGINS APRIL 12

The first meditation class will take place **Tuesday, April 12** from 7 pm -8:30 ish in the Skylight Room. Rev.

Lise's hope is to provide a calm, supportive space where we can breathe, center ourselves, and practice being in the present. All levels of meditators are welcome and feel free to bring friends and acquaintances who don't come to First Parish. As a group, we'll discuss future meeting times and the content of our time together. Future plans may include inviting guests to share their meditation practices with us. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Lise at lsherry@uuma.org. Thanks!



Save the date!

The First Parish Annual Golf Tournament Silver Trophy is once again back up for grabs. Don't miss another opportunity to polish the trophy for an entire year.

Note: in case of weather, the tournament will be played at



Squirrel Run Golf Course
May 14, 2016
Gather by 12:30, Tee Off at 1:00
\$100.00 per Golfer Includes
Dinner in the Parish Hall.
Dinner only \$25.00.
Corporate Sponsors Needed
\$50 Per Hole



Sign up with Deane Howard, Peter Fairbanks, Larry Baker, or John Meddaugh at coffee hour.

CALENDAR
April 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			6 Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm Book Group, FP 7 pm - "Dead Wake"	7 Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	8 James Library Event PH, 7:30 pm "The Finest Hours"	9 Talent Show PH, 5-7 pm 
10 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Path to Membership , FP 11:30 am Finance Comm., Ofc, 11:30 am Young Adult Group, FP 7 pm	11 Boston Red Sox Home Opener vs. Baltimore Orioles, 2:05 pm  AA, PH 8:30 pm	12 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	13 "Spirit of Life", FP, 7 pm Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	14 Staff Meeting, Ofc. 10 am Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	15 Dancers, PH 7-9 pm	16
17 Outreach Sunday Morning Service & Church School (in PH) 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Path to Membership , FP 11:30 am Service Comm., FP 11:30 am Young Adult Group, FP 7 pm	18 Patriots Day  AA, PH 8:30 pm	19 <i>Office Closed & Rev. Lise away</i> Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm Parish Comm., FP 7 pm	20 <i>Office Closed & Rev. Lise away</i> Alliance Book Review @ Helen Keeler's, 10 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	21 <i>Office Closed & Rev. Lise away</i> Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	22 <i>Office Closed & Rev. Lise away</i> Earth Day Passover begins at sundown	23
24 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Young Adult Group, FP 7 pm	25 AA, PH 8:30 pm	26 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	27 "Spirit of Life", FP, 7 pm Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	28 Database Comm., Ofc. 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	29	30 Scrapbookers, PH 10 am-11 pm