

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry
preaching unless otherwise indicated

around our beloved building and grounds.
Many hands

The Spire

The Newsletter of
**First Parish of Norwell
Unitarian Universalist**

24 River Street
P.O. Box 152
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
phone 781-659-7122
fax 781-659-7939
www.firstparishnorwell.org

SUMMER SPIRE

August 16, 2017
Volume XV, Issue 12

August 20: **Fresh Air and Fellowship**

Come join us for another walk through Norris Reservation and an opportunity for meaningful and/or fun conversation while enjoying the outdoors or hanging out in the Fogg Parlor. Refreshments will be available for all in the Fogg Parlor after the walk.

August 27:

The Jain Holiday of Paryushana Parva

Many religions have a time of reflection and forgiveness built into their liturgical year. We'll explore this Jainism tradition and consider what we, as Unitarian Universalists, can we learn from this annual process.

September 3:

3rd Annual Labor Day Breakfast and Spruce Up

Join us at 10 am for a potluck breakfast and then some time spent together working

make the work light, and definitely more fun!
We should be all done by 12:30 or 1 pm.

September 10:

Multigenerational Water Communion Service and Blessing of the Backpacks

Remember to bring some water from a source that enriches your soul as we mingle our water once again to symbolize our wonderful community. We'll also wish our youth well as they begin another school year through a blessing of the backpacks.

2017-2018 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign-up sheets have been posted in the Parish Hall for ushers, greeters, Coffee Hour hosts and pulpit arrangements. Please consider signing up now and giving us a head start for fall!



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

WEBSITE: www.firstparishnorwell.org

Minister:

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, x11
lsherry@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education:

Jessie Slade, 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 2017-2018:

Chair: Les Taylor

Members: Scott Garland, David Hockman,
Mandy Metzger, Gabrielle Millins, Mary
Nickerson and Jim Pickel

Treasurer: Marta Reese

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of THE SPIRE
is **Monday, September 11, 2017.**
Submissions should be emailed to Hope at
office@firstparishnorwell.org.

LISE'S LETTER

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer—finding some time to relax and refresh themselves away from their regular schedule. I know my family and I have enjoyed our time away; it's good to explore new places and look at things with a fresh perspective. The hope is, of course, that one can bring that new way of looking at things back into one's regular life, as if seeing things for the first time. So, as we begin our third year together, what will we see? What will we choose to do to celebrate life and transform ourselves and our world into the place we dream of?

I've been doing a little bit of reading about church missions and purpose and one thing everyone seems to agree on is that all congregants of a church need to know why we're here. Why do we come together every Sunday and other times during the week to be with one another? This self-knowledge as individuals and as a religious community seems especially important given the turmoil and strife in our world. The image designed for First Parish by our dearly departed Bob Sutter, and voted for by the congregation before I arrived, invokes our flaming chalice and the words worship, community and service. If you aren't sure what I'm talking about, this logo is on our big 375th banner on the side of the church and also on almost all church documents. I've thought about it some this summer and am experimenting with adding some descriptors to the words to further flesh them out. So far I've come up with:

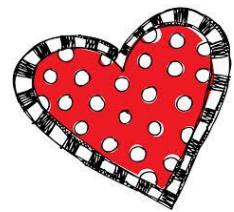
- welcoming Worship
- creating Community
- sharing through Service

I wanted to add some verbs to the words to make them more active and alliteration helps me remember what I've chosen. What do these words (worship, community and service) mean to you? Please let me know— I am curious to know.

As we begin our third year together, we also have a new staff member in our midst. Jessie Slade was chosen as our new Director of Religious Education and she is hard at work preparing for the 2017-2018 church year. Jessie has lots of energy and new ideas and I'm excited to see where they will encourage us to go. Unlike Julian, Jessie will only be working 30 hours a week which means I'll be taking on more of the adult religious education, as will other members of our congregation. If you have ideas for subjects you'd like to see, let us know. So far, I'm considering a class on Thoreau (it's the 200th anniversary of his birth this year), one on Native American culture (the 400th anniversary of Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth is just around the corner), and having ongoing discussions on race/decentering whiteness.

I am so looking forward to continuing to get to know one another more deeply. Don't forget to bring water from a source that inspires or soothes your soul for our Water Communion Service and I hope to see you for at least a little bit on our Labor Day Sunday. I'll be back in the office officially on August 22. In the meantime, take care of one another.

With love and blessings,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

Condolences to Ed Mosher and wife Carol on the unexpected passing of Ed's son Carl "Marty" Mosher on

July 31. He was interred next to his mother, Estelle, in Rockland, Maine. The family plans a memorial service for the fall. To view the obituary published in the Quincy Patriot Ledger, please click here: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-ledger/obituary.aspx?n=carl-m-mosher&pid=186291100&fhid=20930>.

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).



GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Golfers, friends and hole sponsors raised \$1,275 for the church general funds at the 2017 First Parish Annual Golf Tournament held June 24 at the Squirrel Run Golf Course in Plymouth. Golf was followed by an amazing dinner choice of barbecued swordfish, filet mignon, or NY strip steak in the Parish Hall for 28 diners.

A winning score of one under par by the team of Jackie Garceau, Larry Baker and Peter Fairbanks claimed the silver Champions' Chalice for 2017. The team of Donna Wilson, George Wilson and Don Messinger took second place in a card-off with the other two teams who were all tied at even par. Jackie Garceau won both longest drive and closest to the pin awards for women. George Wilson hit the longest drive and Peter Fairbanks hit the closest to the pin for the men.

Special thanks to Roberta Fairbanks and Debi Meddaugh for setting up and organizing the dinner. Thank you to our hole sponsors: Karen and Larry Baker, Roberta and Peter Fairbanks, Beverly and Bernie Gardner, Sally and David Turner, and Carol Altshuler and Ed Mosher. We hope to see even more golfers, hole sponsors, and diners in 2018.

The Golf Committee



FROM OUR

NEW DRE, JESSIE SLADE

Dear First Parish,

I hope all of you are having a happy and healthy summer surrounded by family, friends, and community! Without rushing us too quickly toward the crisp September air, I wanted to reach out to all of you to let you know how excited I am for the upcoming year as First Parish's Director of Religious Education.

Our congregation is a special place for me and my family. We began our journey with First Parish in early 2016, and from that first warm greeting on a bitter cold day, we knew we had found our community. Our continued feeling of support and belonging has been in many ways a direct reflection of the excellent work of Julian Baptista and Reverend Lise. I am so thankful for their leadership and support and will certainly miss seeing Julian's smiling face on Sundays!

As some of you may know, I have spent my professional career working with and advocating for children. I believe in progressive education grounded in child-interest, collaboration, and problem-solving. To that end, I have spent the last decades working with children ranging in age from toddlers to high-school seniors, tirelessly pushing toward more authentic learning and meaningful whole-child education. My experiences have included creating a learning center for homeschooled children, progressive curriculum development, life science education, robotics education, mentoring teenage social activists, and teaching UU religious education, to name a few.

All of these roles (and those not listed!) have continually solidified my belief that education needs to address intellectual as well as spiritual and emotional growth. Education has the power to open our minds and build our human connections. When we are provided time and space to grow as individuals, work as

a community, and ponder the world around us, then true progress is possible. This sort of education takes time and patience. It takes open hearts and minds. It takes commitment and effort. I see all of these qualities present in First Parish, which is why I am filled with hope, joy, and promise as we move toward what is sure to be a wonderful year. Our children are blessed to be in such a supportive, open-minded environment where they are encouraged to search for their own truth and meaning, while taught to embrace diversity and justice.

So what's in store? There is no shortage of UU curricula to be sure! Our religious education classes focus each year on one of the following themes: Unitarian Universalism, Judeo Christian, World Religions. This year's religious education classes focus on developing a greater understanding of UU values and culture. Weekly activities will primarily speak to our principles and sources. Children will be encouraged to question, wonder, reflect, and ponder as they work toward greater self-discovery and a deeper understanding of the world around them and their place in it. The following programs will be adapted to serve our specific community and the needs and interests of our congregation: Tapestry of Faith, The Questing Year, Neighboring Faiths, and Coming of Age. I will also be working to create unique lessons, activities, and projects that we can weave seamlessly into the various curricula from which we often draw, truly making religious education at First Parish unique and responsive to our community.

Of course, the quality of our religious education program solidly reflects the time and talents of our dedicated volunteer teachers. Each and every teacher's commitment to our congregation and our children is palpable and their willingness to step in and serve our community makes First Parish RE something to be proud of and thankful for!

It takes a village! Let it be said, a First Parish village! I am grateful for my place in this

community, for the growth it has afforded me, and for the new adventures yet to come as I serve all of you and your families with an open heart, and open mind, and an enthusiasm for the work that awaits me!

Warmly,
Jessie



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATE

The Building and Grounds committee has been busy this summer. The brush clearing of the “triangle” was started in the Spring. It looks better, but more work is needed in the fall. Thanks to Dave Turner, Mary Nickerson, Scott Stephenson, Dexter Robinson, Larry Baker, Chris Kitchenham, John Litchfield, Jack Wallace and Sue Jevne.

In the meeting house, one pew has been removed and another moved back to allow space for two wheelchairs. Thanks here goes to myself and Deane Howard. The project should be completed by September.

Dave Horton’s painting crew has completed the painting of the rear of the Parish Hall, and is now in the process of painting the front, upper portion of the Meetinghouse with the help of a mechanical lift.

Four portions of the asphalt in the parking lots will be replaced by Pilgrim Paving. At the same time the Preschool will have installed a bike loop around the lower playground. The Preschool is also having a new carpet installed. **The parking lots will be closed while these repairs are in progress, and will reopen as soon as the contractor leaves.** Thanks to Jim Millins for his help with this project.

Inside the Parish Hall, the floor will be lightly sanded and refinished- we try to do this every two years. **Care must be taken to protect**

this floor. Please pick up anything to be moved- do not drag furniture.

Outside the Parish Hall, the rotted back deck is being replaced by Deane Howard and Tommie Magazu.

Special thanks to Tom Fazio who assisted in numerous ways to facilitate these projects.

Don Messinger,
Buildings and Grounds Chair

TAI CHI AND QIGONG



8 week class for beginners
\$50 total

(payable at first class)

September 12, 19 and 26

October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

Tuesday mornings, 9:15 to 10:15 am
in the Parish Hall

Contact Sue Robinson for more information at
artsue45@hotmail.com.



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

Join the FPN bookworms on **Wednesday, September 6** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. They will be discussing “Beartown” by Frederik Backman. The full year’s schedule of books can be found here: <http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/adulted.html>. All are welcome!

CHURCH OFFICE REOPENS



The Church Office will reopen on **Wednesday, September 6**. Hope will be in the office Tuesday through Friday, and Donna will be in Tuesday and Thursday.

As the late summer sales start up, please think about the church **Gift Baskets** which we make and sell at the Holiday Fair in

November, with the money going to the church! Think of a theme and buy items in that theme. Save the receipts for your records.



ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Committee will meet on **Sunday, September 10**, the first week of church, at 11:30 am. Newcomers are welcome. We especially want to know what younger families would enjoy.

Mark these upcoming events on your calendar now:

- Saturday, September 23:** All-Church Potluck Supper & Trivia Night
- Saturday, October 28:** Halloween Dance & Potluck for all ages. Costume optional!
- Saturday, November 18:** Holiday Fair

Please join us for our meetings (usually the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 am) and for all these events.

Peg Kitchenham
Activities Chair



SUMMER CHALLENGE FROM THE SERVICE COMMITTEE

This September we are looking forward to learning how each church family used the \$20.00 the Service Committee gave you to make a difference for someone this summer. If you weren't at church in June to get your family's envelope, you can still pick one up if the Church Office is open or by contacting Marcia Babcock (781-659-2956 or marciabab@aol.com) She will make sure your envelope will be delivered to you.

A full calendar will appear in the September issue. Meanwhile, please refer to this list of upcoming meetings and events. As always, the church calendar can also be viewed on our website - just click on "News" and scroll down to the calendar option.

Thursday, August 17:

Parking lot and Parish Hall floor repairs taking place

Sunday, August 20:

Fresh Air & Fellowship, 10 am

Tuesday, August 22:

Tai Chi, 9:15 am

Knitters, Fogg Parlor, 9:30 am

Sunday, August 27:

Summer worship service with Rev. Lise, 10 am
Parish Committee Retreat, 12-6 pm at the Pickel's

Tuesday, August 29:

Tai Chi, 9:15 am

Knitters, Fogg Parlor, 9:30 am

Preschool's CPR class, Parish Hall 6:30-9:30 pm

Thursday, August 31:

Preschool's First Aid class, Parish Hall 6:30-9:30 pm

Sunday, September 3:

Potluck Breakfast/Church Cleanup, 10 am

Monday, September 4:

Spire deadline

Wednesday, September 6:

Church Office reopens at 9 am!

Alliance Board, Fogg Parlor 10 am

Book Group, Fogg Parlor 7 pm

Dancers, Parish Hall, 7-9 pm

The AA meeting continues to be held at 8:30 pm each Monday evening.