

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

March 7, 2018
Volume XVI, Issue 7

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry
preaching unless otherwise indicated

March 11: **Commitment Sunday**

We'll combine this with last Sunday's service about Stewardship (since we didn't have church). We'll celebrate the wonderful place we are, and we'll share our abundance through a raffle of some FAHBULOUS prizes for those who have already turned in their pledges. After church, please stay for our lasagna lunch (vegetarian and non-gluten choices will be available). And remember to spring forward with your clock on Saturday!

March 18: **title TBA**

Rev. Caitlin Coilberg, Guest Speaker

March 25: **Hope Turned to Ashes**

Palm Sunday is liturgically a time of excitement and celebration as Jesus enters Jerusalem. There is so much hope and promise in the air, much like when a child is born. What happens when these new lives

don't turn out as planned? What happens when we lock away lives into our growing industrial prison complexes? Do we still have the hope of rehabilitation, or has that dream died? This is an **Outreach Sunday** to benefit Partakers, our prison ministry. We will also have a Palm Sunday communion service after the regular service. All are invited to participate.

April 1: **Life Reborn**

Join us for our annual Easter service. We'll have breakfast together before the service at 8:45 am, and children will have an Easter Egg Hunt during their religious education time.

Daylight Savings Time begins next **Sunday, March 11**. Remember to "spring forward" and set your clocks ahead by one hour.

LISE'S LETTER

OFFICE HOURS

(September to mid-June):

Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 am-1 pm

Friday: 9 am-12 pm

Minister:

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, x11

lisherry@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education:

Jessie Slade, x12

drefpnuu@gmail.com

Music Director:

Gingy Grimes

gingygrimes@gmail.com

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,
Amanda 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, April 4, 2018**. Submissions should be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org.

I hope this Spire finds everyone warm and with power! It was quite the Nor'easter, wasn't it? And by the time this reaches you, we might be in the midst of another one. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need help in anyway. Unfortunately, my family has discovered our cell phone carrier does not work when the power is out (we'll see if we can remedy that), so if you can't reach me during a power outage, stop by the Parsonage, please!

The second thing I wanted to chat with you all about was the sermon I presented on Transitions a couple of weeks ago. As I said, First Parish has been going through many changes (new minister, new director of religious education, societal changes, different generational views on doing things, etc.) and so it's understandable that there should be some bumps along the road.

Change is going to happen whether we want it to, or not, so the best thing we can do to cope, is figure out how to manage our transitions—the time when we say goodbye to something (and grieve if necessary), spend time in a wondering what's next/exploring stage, followed by starting something new. To add to the complexity, we might be experiencing some part of these three phases at the same time.

Good communication and self-reflection are essential to transitions, which is why I wanted to talk about this during a service *and* follow up with a conversation afterwards. The conversation we had in the Fogg Parlor that day was rich and helpful. The 14 of us who gathered had a chance to listen to others and express our own thoughts and feelings. Below is a transcription of the notes from our conversation. Please let me know if you have any questions. As soon as I get settled in after the Nor'easter I'll choose another date for discussion and let you all know.

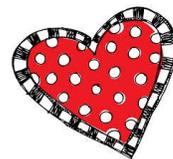
WE ARE UU!

- An opinion that changes is not that drastic (it's ok to change your mind)
- Can't ignore the "swirling world" around us
- We need traditions for grounding
- We need to change to grow, but not too fast
- It's hard to feel insignificant (because one's ways are no longer appreciated)
- "Generational silos" - want understanding of each other - more relationships
- RE subs are needed, especially from the older generation
- Concerns that the UUA unduly influences FPNUU (i.e., the transgender issue)
- Maybe we need to *really* talk about issues on a deeper level
- We may disagree, but we walk in love
- It's good to have more discussions at church, both ways (→ ←) and not just one way (→)
- "Topics that Matter" or Small Group Ministry*** - it's important to hear differences
- Community is yearning for leadership and place to talk - we need a starting place. Examples: books, films, speakers, short articles
- Come to terms with doing church differently. Reflect and need to change expectations
- Acknowledge all the change at FPNUU - maybe need more stability and recognize LOSS
- Some new folks see unity
- Consider having speakers to discuss the "new normal" (experts from advertising, sociology, etc.)
- Encourage people with diverse opinions to come to church
- Change can feel dangerous, vulnerable, disrespectful
- Appreciate that everyone has different backgrounds and so come to things with different perspectives
- Glad for acceptance and happy to learn

- Different ages affect perspectives and needs
- Change is inevitable - can be both good and bad
- Pick your battles about what you may disagree with in church
- How congruent are our actions with our UUA principles?
- Have 1 to 1 conversations
- Give more notice (and childcare) of church conversations

Finally, I want to remind folks that even with the Nor'easters, we're in the midst of our pledge season. Last Sunday, I was going to talk about all the different ways we are lucky to be part of First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist, and the ways that this community positively affects the greater world. If you can, please take some time before you fill out your pledge form to think about how First Parish has affected your life, and those around you. Then, I hope you'll please give as generously as you can, from a place of love and gratitude.

Blessings and love,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

The sympathies of the parish are with Jim and Joyce Pickel and their family. Jim's mother Carol passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 4. She will be remembered at a memorial service later in the spring (probably in April at Linden Ponds in Hingham, where Carol lived and had many friends).

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 781-659-7122 or 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).

WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR PLEDGE

Hello fellow members and friends of FPNUU!

I am writing to you as the Treasurer, a member of the Finance Committee and a long time member of our beloved church. By now, everyone should have received a letter from the Finance Committee asking you to pledge as generously as possible to our Fiscal Year 2019 budget. In the letter, you are being asked to increase your pledge and I wanted to give you some of the reasons behind that request.

Our church is in the fortunate position of having an endowment, which, in the past few years, has provided income to cover about 41% of our expenses. Pledges from members and friends have covered about 42% of expenses. Rental income and other miscellaneous income have covered the remaining 17% of expenses.

In Fiscal Year 2018, we are expecting to receive pledges of approximately \$130,000. Our pledge goal for the Fiscal Year 2019 is \$160,000. Here are the things we want to support through increased pledges.

- A 3% wage increase to our incredibly talented Minister, DRE, and Music Director as well as to our staff members who provide critical administrative support and building/ground maintenance.
- A 20% increase in FPNUU employer paid health insurance premiums (based on a renewal quote from insurance carrier);
- Sending two delegates to the General Assembly in Spokane, Washington and be able to cover not only their registration, but their travel and lodging;
- Being a 100% fair share contributor to the UUA and the Ballou Channing District
- Significantly expand our social justice work by increasing the contribution to

the Helen Fogg Service Committee from \$1,500 to \$20,000;

- A significant contribution to the Capital Improvement Fund to take care of our beautiful, but aging, buildings which include the Meetinghouse, Parish Hall, Parsonage, Kent House and the James Library.

I hope we can all rally and increase our pledges to support these endeavors. As you all know, over the last few years, some generous supporters have passed on or moved away. While we have been fortunate to have some new families join our church community, we have not been able to attain past levels of support. If everyone was able to increase their pledges to the extent possible, it would go a long way in achieving our canvass goal for Fiscal Year 2019.

I want to remind you about the *FABULOUS* raffle prizes that you will be eligible for if you turn in your pledge no later than 10:00 am on **Sunday, March 11**. The drawing will take during the service. So far, we have gift certificates from the Hitching Post, the Mill Wharf, Tinker's Son, the Patriot Cinemas and Dunkin Donuts. There will also be *DELICIOUS* baked goods for prizes!

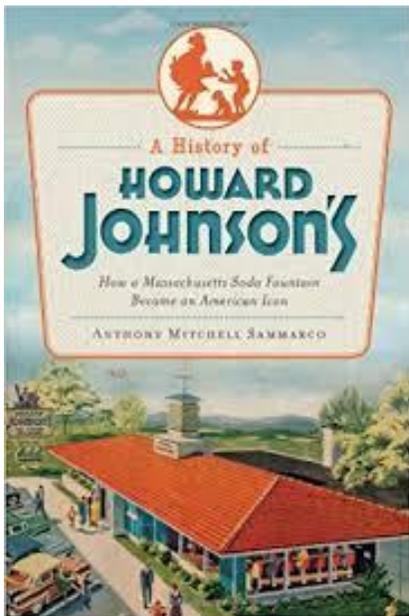
Finally, don't forget about the *Lasagna Luncheon* sponsored by the Finance Committee at 11 am on **Sunday, March 11**- we want to celebrate all the ways in which our members support FPNUU!

You are part of such an incredible church community - thank you for considering increasing your support!

In Faith,
Marta Reese



A HISTORY OF HOWARD JOHNSON'S



Please join the Alliance on **Saturday morning, March 24** at 10 am in the Parish Hall for this fascinating lecture about the founding of Howard Johnson's. This is a tale of diligence, ingenuity and, of course, those 28 flavors of ice cream. Anthony Sammarco has been called the "Balzac of Boston" because of the many histories he's written about Boston and surrounding towns, including the Great Fire of 1872, the Baker Chocolate Factory, the founding of Jordan Marsh and the Molasses Flood. Light refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to purchase Mr. Sammarco's books.

NEW ADULT RE CLASS

You're invited to explore your questions about First Nations in our area and attend a screening of "We Still Live Here" on **Tuesday, March 13** at 7 pm in the Skylight Room. Created by Anne Makepeace, the film tells the story of the Wampanoag people's struggle to keep their identity alive, preserve

their language and to stay on their ancestral lands. Following the film, there will be an opportunity for discussion.

At this gathering we will also have information about the Study and Discussion Guide created for, "Hidden Genocide, Hidden People," by Dennis Cerrotti. The First Nations Working group of UU Mass Action has developed this resource and is inviting congregations to participate in a four week study and discussion group. The study and discussion group is designed to deepen participants' understanding of Unitarian Universalism and First Nations history and will run weekly for four weeks beginning **Tuesday, March 20** at 7 pm in the Skylight Room.

We are placing a group order for books from Amazon, so if you are interested in having one ordered for you, please contact Elizabeth Robinson at eerob2001@gmail.com by **Friday, March 9**.



SPRING COTTAGE MEETING

Please save the date! The Parish Committee is hosting one spring cottage meeting on **Sunday, April 8** at 11:30 am in the Fogg Parlor. The primary subject will be in regard to "Growth and Stewardship." We welcome one and all to attend. Childcare will be provided!



MEN'S DINNER

The next Men's Dinner will be on **Monday, March 12**. Appetizers will be served at 6 pm, and dinner at about 6:30 pm. David Turner will host (47 Bridge Street, Norwell) and will provide the entire meal. Please plan to BYOB. Please let David know you are coming by calling 781-659-4646 or emailing dlt731@gmail.com.

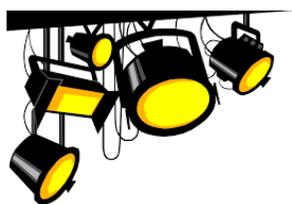


The Finance Committee thanks you for your support of “Sharing Hearts Lead the Way”, the 2018-2019 Annual Pledge Drive.

As of March 6, 20 pledges have been received, totalling \$40,265. Pledges have been received from the following members and friends:

Paul Bourque, Laurie Brown and Dan Carroll, Noel Constantino, Bob Cullum, John and Peg Carpenter, Cathy Harder-Bernier, Dave and Joyce Hockman, Helen Keeler, Joan Kenworthy, Chris and Peg Kitchenham, John Micek and Nancy Fuller, Jim and Marie Miller, Prue Miller, Jeannette Mitchell, Joni Nahigian, Dexter and Sue Robinson, Paul and Denise Shaw, Les and Marlon Taylor, David and Sally Turner and Sandra Williams.

Hope will be out of the office (and in sunny Florida!) March 20-23. She will be back on **Tuesday, March 27.**



**LIGHTS!
CAMERA!
ACTION!**

Join us on **Saturday, March 17** at 5 pm in the Parish Hall for the annual FPN Talent Show. We are looking for all kinds of talent (children and adults both) to join us in making winter a lot of fun. Please let Marie Miller or Peg Kitchenham know if you would like to participate.



DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to our Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM), with input from our beloved congregants, First Parish of Norwell developed a “*Right Relations Covenant*” last spring. This covenant expresses our ideals in how we treat each other with respect and “in an environment that builds connections, renews spirit and inspires action.” To review the complete Right Relations Covenant, please go to this link: <http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/about.html>



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Mini-sessions were a wonderful success. Thank you again to all of the group leaders who engaged the children in everything from dog care to card tricks! Namely, Marcia Babcock, Lorna Philips, Erin Puleio, Mary Nickerson, Patti Walters, Aidan Robey, Ben Metzger, Amanda Adams, Bev Gardner, Linda Hurt, Bernie Gardner, Tschol Slade, Joanne Howard, and Adrianna McLane.

We are gearing up for an excellent second semester with wonderful curriculum, dedicated teachers, and amazing children! Children in grades 1-4 will be using the UU Superheros curriculum. The lessons focus on specific individuals throughout history who have in some way demonstrated the UU spirit of living. The UU principles are woven into each lesson along with interesting stories and hands-on activities. One of the great characteristics of this curriculum is that it focuses on varying people that you might not otherwise consider. So although Sophia Lyon Fahs is featured, so too are Pete Seeger and Beatrix Potter. This class will continue to be taught by Debb Welsh, Amanda Adams, Jordan Grant, and Emily Grant. Children in grades 5-6 will continue with the Questing Year

curriculum. This curriculum focuses on four types of quests: UU quest, inner quest, mystery quest, and action quest. I send a huge thank you to Mary Nickerson and Erin Puleio for leading this class last semester! The upcoming months will feature Abbie and Tom Yardley as group leaders. The Neighboring Faiths group had expressed interest in learning more about Islam and the Buddhist faith traditions. We are planning a visit to the Islamic Center of New England in Quincy. I am also reaching out to several Buddhist centers to determine what might be the best fit for our group visit. Suggestions are welcome! Students will also spend some time this semester learning about the Quaker religion as well as Wicca rituals. Students will then round out the year by reflecting on what they have learned and digging deep into their own personal values to create a Coming of Age credo. Credos will be presented on June 10th. Elizabeth and Thad Robey did a wonderful job leading this group in the fall and now the torch is passed to Gabe Millins and Julia Traggorth!

The Youth Group will be participating in a CON in Sharon from March 24-25. This is the same day as the nation-wide rally on gun violence. The Youth Advisors in Sharon have arranged the schedule such that teens who want to attend the rally can do so and then return to the CON. On another note, the FPNUU Youth Group raised approximately \$250 from the chocolate fundraiser in February. Thank you FPNUU for your donating and purchasing all things chocolate-y and wonderful!

Jessie Slade
Director of Religious Education



To everyone in the congregation who contributed so generously with your time and money to the Christmas project for foster children,

The social workers at the Department of Children and Families asked me several times to pass on their appreciation for First Parish's support during the holidays. One mentioned how much the children loved the gifts. Another said the social workers really were grateful that people noticed that they and the children needed support from the community. This weekend i just received a letter from the social workers addressed to First Parish Church members. "Thank you so much for your hard work and generosity. Our kids had the best possible Christmas! Happy New Year". I have also received thanks this year and in the past from foster moms and even met a former foster child, now an adult working at retail, who told me how important these gifts from strangers were to her when she was a child.

So thank you are for all you did to once again make this project possible. Our committee could never do it without the support of the entire congregation.

Betsy Gordon, Deb Chase, Noel Constantino and Shastin Garland

SHOUT OUT SUMMARIES



In case any recent Sunday worship services were missed, the Parish Committee would like to re-cap our pulpit "SHOUT OUT" recipients:

Marcia Babcock

Important contributions to the church have been bestowed by Marcia for decades, she of the wonderful smile and one of our most

welcoming members. Some examples: she has spent many years on the Music Committee (some of them as Chair, and a long-time member and valued voice in our Church Choir), serves on the Worship Committee, has been a Worship Associate, is a very active member of the Helen Fogg Service Committee, has taught Sunday School, is an instrumental and hard worker of our annual Holiday Fair (creating many of the handcrafts for sale), is a past member of our ministerial search committee, is active in Partakers and for decades, along with her husband, Scott, has coordinated the successful summer FPN regatta. Thank you, Marcia, for all you do!

FPN Book Group

These folks share their reading experiences on the first Wednesday of every month, year-round, and are quite an eclectic group. They cross generations, they're men and women, some are hoarders, there are library devotees and others who simply load their Kindles. They are voracious readers, some of the non-fiction variety and others who read only fiction. But they all love a good story, sharing books and recommendations. The deep conversations are humbling and a spiritual growth comes from this wonderful experience. Thank you to this group's contributions in helping make FPN a bookish, soulful space!

Rev. Lise and Family

Three years ago, Rev. Lise brought her ministry to FPN UU. She chose to help us navigate our future and be part of that future as well. Her family, Nelson, Kennen, Derek, Orvis (and dog Nahna, recently joined by new puppy Talia) came with her to support her work and ministry here. The Sherry's have brought life and energy to the parsonage that it hasn't seen in years. They came to support Rev. Lise with her work and they have all found a home here on the South Shore. This was a big, family decision that involved a lot of travel and logistics, but was made without hesitation by all involved. We are extremely grateful to Lise and her family for making this commitment and we thank them for their

willingness to be a part of our First Parish family!

Buildings and Grounds Committee AND "Friends"

This committee is one that can't be thanked enough for their continued tireless efforts with upkeep and maintenance demands continually increasing. Many "friends" have helped pitch in, sometimes spontaneously, and there have been quite a few recent examples including: the team who recently took advantage of a warm winter day and hung our brand new church banner on the side of the Meetinghouse (Don Messinger, Deane Howard, Rev. Lise and Nelson Sherry and John Micek, plus John and Debi Meddaugh for helping to manufacture the banner); the quick "adoption" of our new outdoor sandwich board and messaging (Mary Nickerson and Gabe Millins); the wintertime weekday brush and branch "clear and burn" team behind the Kent House (Chris Kitchenham, John Litchfield, Don Messinger, Tom Fazio and Mary Nickerson); the Parish Committee liaison, Dave Hockman, who has greatly increased his involvement with Buildings and Grounds this winter; and finally our outgoing Chair of the committee, Jim Millins, for his dedicated leadership, concern to resolving so many issues and his commitment to see still-ongoing projects through completion. Thank you to ALL!

Thank you again to all of the above. We very much would welcome your suggestions for future Shout Out recipients. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the Parish Committee with your suggestions. Thank you.



MARCH 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			7 Book Group FP 7 pm	8 Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	9 Piano lessons, PH 2-5 pm	10 Commitment Sunday set up, PH 12:30 pm
11 Daylight Savings Time begins Morning Service & Church School 10 am Lasagna Lunch, PH 11 am	12 Men's Dinner at David Turner's, 6 pm AA, PH 8:30 pm	13 Knitters, FP 9:30 am Adult RE, Sky. 12 pm Dancers, PH 6-8 pm First Nations RE, Sky. 7 pm	14 iSpi deadline, 9 am Alliance Board, FP 10 am Dancers, PH 7-9 pm	15 Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	16 Piano lessons, PH 2-5 pm Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	17 Talent Show, PH 5 pm 
18 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am	19 AA, PH 8:30 pm	20 Hope out of the office Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 6-8 pm Parish Comm., FP 7 pm First Nations RE, Sky. 7 pm	21 Hope out of the office iSpi deadline 9 am Caregivers' Support Grp., FP 7 pm Dancers, PH 7-9 pm	22 Hope out of the office Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	23 Hope out of the office Piano lessons, PH 2-5 pm	24 Alliance, PH 10 am
25  Outreach Sunday Morning Service & Church School 10 am Communion Svc., MH 11 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Finance Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am Sutter Bequest Mtg., PH 5 pm	26 AA, PH 8:30 pm	27 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 6-8 pm First Nations RE, Sky. 7 pm	28 Dancers, PH 7-9 pm	29 Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	30 Piano lessons, 2-5 pm	31 Easter Breakfast set up, PH & Kit. 10 am