

The Spire

The Newsletter of
**First Parish of Norwell,
Unitarian Universalist**
24 River Street
P.O. Box 152
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
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June 6, 2018
Volume XVI, Issue 10

Sunday Services - 10 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry
preaching unless otherwise indicated

June 10: Religious Education Sunday Jessie Slade and Rev. Lise Adams Sherry

Join us as we hear our middle schoolers credos and celebrate what they've learned about themselves and other religions this year. We will also have a bridging ceremony for our graduating high school senior.

June 17: Our Fifth Principle

This will be the final sermon on our principles this year. Our fifth principle honors the democratic process that guides us in our congregational governance. We're having a potluck after the service so please join us and bring food if you can.

June 24: General Assembly Sunday

Join us at 10 am (regular time) in the Parish Hall as we live stream the worship service from General Assembly in Kansas City.

We will be having summer worship services, which will be a combination of outdoor and indoor services. More specific information, with details, will be forthcoming shortly. All services will be held at 10:00 am.

There's no calendar in this issue of the Spire, since there's only a couple of weeks until we switch to our summer schedule. Check out the full calendar of events on our website: <http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/calendar.html>

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

lsherry@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, August 13, 2018**. Submissions should be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org.

LISE'S LETTER

One of the (many) things I enjoy about being a minister is getting to participate on your behalf out in the community. Last Friday, I had the good fortune to be able to go the senior awards night at Norwell High School. I went to bestow the first annual college scholarship from our congregation to a Norwell senior. The Parish Committee came up with the idea of this scholarship as a way to contribute more to the wider community by helping a worthy student with college expenses. It's something the Parish Committee would like to continue doing on an annual basis. Some of my remarks from that evening follow:

"First I'd like to add my congratulations to what has already been expressed. Students, teacher and parents, I hope you're proud of what you've accomplished. Graduates—you're almost graduates—I'm so excited for you as you begin this adventure! When we were deciding about the criteria for this scholarship, we thought it would be most appropriate to award it to someone who meets one of the ethical principles of our faith. The principle we chose is the first of seven. In it, we promise to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all. I believe this is one of our most important principles, because it provides a foundation for everything that comes after it, not only in our particular religious tradition, but in life. If we have difficulties honoring others and seeing their worth, life can be even more challenging because we are such social creatures. We need to work with one another, empower ourselves and encourage others to be the best they can be. From what I've been told, Meaghan Coughlin exemplifies this value."

I then went on to describe some of the reasons why Meaghan deserves our scholarship. Norwell High School had chosen her based on her application and our criteria. It turns out she's done peer counseling in the

WE ARE UU!

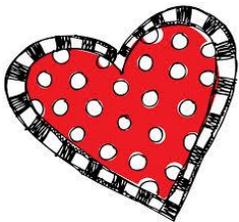
high school and one of the grade schools. She's also been an active leader in the school's music program (she plays the saxophone and the piano) and models good citizenship, responsibility, compassion and respect for herself and others.

I was one of about 15 other adults from the community who awarded scholarships personally. There were also several other awards that the school gave out from their own programs or on behalf of others. It was so nice to be at the high school that night. We have so many wonderful young adults stepping out into the world (including our own Adrianna) and they were shining last Friday. Thank you all for caring about our future, and thank you for allowing me to serve you in this way.

Blessings and love,
Rev. Lise

REV. LISE'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

Rev. Lise will be in Kansas City, Missouri from June 17-24. During the months of July and August she will be taking her study leave and vacation. While she's gone, the Pastoral Care Committee will still be available and they will have a minister they can call for emergencies, too.



CARING CORNER

All are welcome to FPNUU baby shower for Baby Traggorth on **Sunday, July 17** at 11:30am-1pm in the

Fogg Parlor. We'll have lunch and games and fun for all ages. Please come and help us welcome our newest member! Contact Mandy Metzger at amajon@me.com.

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).

JOB POSTINGS



Director of Religious Education

Hopefully everyone has heard by now that our DRE, Jessie Slade, is returning to school teaching in the fall. We want to thank her for all her service; we'll miss Jessie in this role! Our search to find her replacement is underway. The position will be 30 hours a week for 11 months of the year. If you'd like to learn more about this position, or know someone who might be interested, please click

here: <http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/DRE-job-posting-fpnuu2018.pdf>.

Property Manager

With the approval of FPN's FY19 church budget, we now have approved a new church position of Property Manager, effective July 1. This part-time, 5 hour per week position would be the "go to" person for handling initial service requests for all our church properties. This person would work closely with our Buildings and Grounds Committee, determining what tasks the committee handles vs. contracting out. Any interested parties should contact Jack Wallace via call or text at 781-834-4696 or through email at jeanjacques99@verizon.net. Thank you!





FROM THE ASSISTANT TREASURER

Our fiscal year ends on June 30. All receipts (except those for General Assembly-related expenses) should be submitted to Donna in the Church Office by **Thursday, June 28**. This will allow her to close out FY18 in a timely manner. All reimbursement requests for GA should be submitted as soon as possible after GA. Please contact Donna in the Church Office at donna@firstparishnorwell.org with any questions.



SUMMER OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Church Office will close for the summer on **Wednesday, June 20**. After that, Hope and Donna will be switching to their summer schedule. Donna will be in on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Hope will be in on Tuesdays. They will be in for just an hour or two, and will not be checking voicemails and emails remotely. We suggest calling or emailing before stopping by, as travel plans may affect this schedule. The office will reopen on **Tuesday, September 4**.



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Are you a committee chair looking for new ideas? Do you want to learn more about how other UU churches tackle various challenges? Please let Denominational Affairs know! We want to bring those questions to General Assembly in June. Reach out to Elizabeth Robinson at eerob2001@gmail.com. Feel free to peruse the GA Program here (skip to page 18 to start viewing program descriptions): <https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/gaprogram2018.pdf>.

SUMMER PUBLICITY SCHEDULE

July

- 3 iSpi deadline 9 am - distributed same day
- 18 iSpi deadline 9 am - distributed same day

August

- 1 iSpi deadline 9 am - distributed same day
- 13 Spire deadline
- 15 Spire distributed

September

- 3 Spire deadline
- 4 Church Office reopens
- 5 Spire distributed
- 13 iSpi deadline



COMMUNITY DINNER

Our next Community Dinner will be on **Wednesday, June 13**, from 5:00 to 6:15 pm. You are invited to attend and enjoy dinner with friends and neighbors. You are also welcome to participate by: attending yourself and making our guests feel welcome; inviting your friends and neighbors to attend; or by bringing people who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. We are seeking a pool of volunteers who can sometimes work on a team to put on the dinner. Most jobs don't include cooking, and some can be done ahead. If you have questions or want to sign up, please contact Jack Wallace, Marcia Babcock, Betsey Drollett, Gabe Millins or Deborah Chase.





COLOR OUR WORLD

We here at FPNUU are extremely proud of our children and we would like to share a piece of all of them with the community around us. We are asking them to draw what they think of themselves, the world or First Parish. That artwork will then be painted on a wall in our Parish Hall.

Through our children's eyes and artwork, the wall overlooking the oval parking lot will come alive with colors and designs that will make us all smile as we enter the Hall. Their artwork will add color and enhance the community atmosphere we would like to encourage here at First Parish. Visitors and members alike will see that our children with their creative impressions are important to our church!

We have started the "Youth Art Wall Project". This 12- 18 month project will involve decorating the wall at south end of the Parish Hall (from where the tables and chairs are - all the way over to where the piano is kept). This project has been approved by our Parish Committee and eagerly taken on by a group of adults who will oversee the project.

Right now, Betsey Detwiler, Chris Kitchenham, Gabe Millins, Marie Miller, Mary Nickerson, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry and Jessie Slade are the adults making up the "Y.A.W.P." (Youth Art Wall Project), along with all of the youth of FPNUU. If anyone would like to be part of this project, please let Mary Nickerson know.

We have started the process by getting the children talking about it with their church school teachers, friends and family. We would like the parents of our children to encourage the conversation at home this spring and summer. Talk about the children's ideas and help them come up with something they can

put down on paper. By talking about it at home, we hope to start the process by which the kids' ideas and thoughts can begin to take shape. Their drawings can be about what's important to them. We want to see what they think. Remind them that this is something that will be up where everyone can see it and watch the twinkle in their eye and the smile on their face.

The timeline for this project is still in the planning stage as are the logistics. We wish to introduce this now so the children can be thinking about this all summer and come back next fall with ideas. The actual painting of the wall will not happen until next year sometime. We will keep First Parish updated through the SPIRE next year. Have a nice summer!



FROM THE DRE

Hello First Parish,

First of all, I want to thank all of you for a wonderful year. Your kindness helped to support me as I ventured through my first year as a DRE. This community is wonderful. I knew that as a parishioner and I now know that even more deeply as your religious education director.

This year has been full of enjoyable and enriching experiences for our children, most of which have focused on the theme of Unitarian Universalism within our three year cycle. Lessons have centered on our sources as well as our guiding principles. The youngest students worked through the Love Will Guide Us and UU Superheros curricula. Activities ranged from exploring the ecosystems of FPNUU's backyard, to practicing First Aid, to creating a group puzzle, and everything in between. Our upper elementary students worked through an entire year of the Questing Year curriculum, focusing on what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and engaging in

hands-on activities and lively discussion. This group rounded out the year with a social action project that raised money for the Norwell Food Pantry. Our Neighboring Faiths class considered beliefs and traditions of various religions, including Baptist, Judaism, Quaker, Wicca, Catholicism, Islam, and Buddhist. Our visits to various temples, churches, and the like brought the learning to life as the children sang (sometimes loudly!), meditated, visited prayer rooms that faced Mecca, and sat in the front of the temple to listen to stories from the old testament. All of this learning was grounded in information from various First Parish parishioners who were willing to visit the class and share their own faith traditions, either current or from earlier times in their lives. The Neighboring Faiths experience allowed students not only to learn about various perspectives and beliefs, but also provided them an opportunity for personal reflection. This ultimately led to the creation of thoughtful Coming of Age credos that were grounded in authenticity and honesty.

Youth Group spent the year meeting every other week with other teens from Scituate, Cohasset, and Rockland. Activities included political rallies, parades, and several multi-day CONS. The creation of the SciCohRockWell Youth Group has provided a large, dynamic, and thoughtful community for our teens. I am very thankful for the hard work of the youth mentors from these other churches. They are all truly dedicated to supporting teens and building them up in every way possible. And when you are hovering between childhood and adulthood, being surrounded by the safety net of caring adults who support you in being exactly who you are can make a world of difference.

This Spire article wouldn't be complete without a shout out to the dozens of people who helped to bring RE to life this year. Whether you taught a class, led a mini-session, visited with the Neighboring Faiths group, drove to Youth Group meetings, or just

had a good conversation with a child, you helped to make this all happen. Our children need supportive adults to thrive within our church community and you have stepped up and offered your time and energy to help them grow and learn. Thank you!

Jessie Slade



GOLF TOURNAMENT ADDS \$1,600 TO ANNUAL FUND!

Golfers, friends, and hole sponsors raised over \$1,600 for the church general funds at the 2018 First Parish Annual Golf Tournament held June 2 at the Squirrel Run Golf Course in Plymouth. Golf was followed by a scrumptious dinner of barbecued swordfish and NY strip steak in the Parish Hall for 33 diners.

A winning score of three under par by the team of Jackie Garceau, Joanne Howard, and Deane Howard claimed the silver Chalice for 2018. The team of Chris Kitchenham, Justin Meddaugh and John Meddaugh took second place. For the second year in a row Jackie Garceau hit the trifecta also winning both longest drive and closest to the pin awards for women. Discussion of whether to make Jackie hit from the men's tees was tabled until next year. Deane Howard smashed the longest drive and Jim Pickel hit the closest to the pin for the men.

Special thanks to Peg Kitchenham and Beverly Gardner for the wonderful dinner. Also thanks to Carol Neely, Roberta Fairbanks and Debi Meddaugh for bringing mouth watering additions. Chefs Don Messinger, Bruce Messinger and Deane Howard demonstrated their barbecuing excellence with perfect results. Thank you to our Hole Sponsors: Karen

and Larry Baker, Jim and Marie Miller, Roberta and Peter Fairbanks, Beverly and Bernie Gardner, Sally and David Turner, George Goodwin, and Carol Altshuler and Ed Mosher. We hope to see even more golfers, hole sponsors, and diners in 2019.

The Golf Committee

FROM THE PARISH COMMITTEE CHAIR

For those of you who attended this past Sunday's Annual Meeting and supported the church's democratic process, *thank you!* We had many important articles to review, discuss and vote upon. I was proud of our church displaying its UU values in agreeing to fund costly expenditures to help improve much-needed upgrades within our facilities, as well as make a substantial financial donation to our friends at the James Library to support their accessibility capital campaign, "Arts for Everyone."

I am also thankful for the approval of our suggested bylaw changes to address both the Treasurer role and the term length for the Parish Committee. I explained back in the April Spire the key reasons for these recommendations. Now with the Parish Committee being a three year term, perhaps even more folks will step forward (or even step forward once again!) in the years ahead and be willing to serve on the church's governing board. It's a valuable experience, one in which I am deeply thankful.

I wish to thank Marie Miller and Marcia Babcock, in particular, for recruiting me to the Parish Committee as they recognized I was capable of serving before I even did. Before I realized it myself, it was Marie and Marcia who recognized this potential within me. Instead of stopping at my typical answer of "no," I was moved to serve by asking myself "why not?" It was a long but worthwhile four years and I served with some amazing people along the way. I got to know

people throughout the church in a closer manner. I learned the "inner workings" of all things FPN and would describe my tenure as a positive venture throughout.

I was honored to have been voted Chair for these past two years. These years were especially busy, but also an incredible learning experience. I enjoyed working closely with Marta Reese, our amazing outgoing Treasurer. After 25 outstanding years of service to the church, Marta is stepping down on July 1. I learned a lot from Marta, enjoyed collaborating with her and am honored to have been Marta's last PC Chair during the concluding years of her stellar tenure as Treasurer. Thank you for everything, Marta. You will be missed!

A significant highlight being PC Chair was working closely with Rev. Lise. We met every month (and sometimes more than that), collaborating, comparing ideas, suggesting various plans and sharing our vision for the church. We didn't always agree, but that was okay. I felt appreciated being heard and I extended Rev. Lise the same courtesy. Usually we were very much in sync and worked extremely well as a team. I know I was a better Chair thanks to her patience, guidance and support. So thank you, Lise!

To all those I served with on the Parish Committee over the past four years, thank you for all your time, attention and commitment to First Parish. We did a heck of a lot (yikes, just look at this year's "supersized" PC annual report of four pages as an example!), we endured changes (both those we created and others that transpired), we inspired others and offered support to one another. I was honored to first be your colleague and later, your Chair.

Yes, we have a few challenges today... but don't we always? However, I think the church today is in a sound place with room to grow and plenty of exciting opportunities that lie ahead. I look forward to the future and can't

wait to see where First Parish of Norwell is positioned in another four years. Thank you, church members and friends. It has been a pleasure to serve on your Parish Committee.

In fellowship and love,
Les Taylor



SHOUT OUT SUMMARIES

In case any recent Sunday worship services were missed, the Parish Committee would like to recap our pulpit “SHOUT OUT”

recipients:

Lorna Phillips, Marcia Babcock and the Children’s Hand Chime Choir

We recognized all the mothers out there in honor of Mother’s Day. In addition, there were a couple of these mothers and “their kids” that have stood out, as we applauded the mothering efforts of Lorna Phillips and Marcia Babcock who have been leading our new Children’s Hand Chime Choir. These ladies have spent many hours nurturing our First Parish youth to learn how to play the hand chimes. First, it started with “Go Now in Peace” but has ventured on, such as the song “Music Alone Shall Last” which was heard on Music Sunday. It takes a lot of coordination, concentration and training. And the result has been beautiful! We would like to sincerely thank Lorna & Marcia for their time and effort, as well as the entire children’s chime choir, consisting of: Eva, Liam, Molly, Emma, Ben, Reid, Ava, Brennan, Nora, Ruby, Avery, Kai, Kian, Maebon, Adelaide and Otto. Thank you to all for adding to the abundance of beautiful music in our Meetinghouse!

Denominational Affairs Committee

This committee serves to link our church with denominational organizations and to educate the Parish about the larger UU denomination. The DA committee encourages and promotes

greater participation of members and friends of FPN in the activities and concerns of the broader Unitarian Universalist movement. The committee is comprised of delegates elected at our annual meeting to represent the Parish at the Ballou Channing District and New England Region annual meetings, and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly. We thank our two Denominational stewards this past year, the “point person,” Elizabeth Robinson, and member Tommie Magazu for their service. Thank you both!

Knitters’ Group

This is a “governing board without term limits!” Your history together is long and you welcome in everyone. You knit, crochet, and sew for fun, for causes, and for the fair. You know how to laugh and when to work. You know when to light a candle, and when to light a fire, and the difference between the two. Your opinions are wide. You are wise. You bear witness brilliantly. You are the keepers of memories and stories of people, years and eras gone by. Your commitment is deep. Your honesty, fierce. Your listening skills, divine. Your voices, authentic. Your love for one another and the church, boundless. You swim in the deepest part of the UU ocean. And “what happens in knitters, stays at knitters!” The Knitters Group is open to all Tuesday mornings starting around 10 am until whenever. “Please accept me pastries” absolutely not needed, but will be eaten. Handwork is entirely optional... and soul work is guaranteed. Congratulations on your years of gathering, from Sue Robinson’s living room to the Fogg Parlor and witnessing everything and everyone that comes your way. Thank you for being Knitters!

Buildings and Grounds Committee

We were happy to recognize some special Buildings and Grounds helpers. First, for “grounds,” we were recently blessed with the diligent work by Sue Robinson and Linda Twomey who fixed up our Memorial Garden on the south side of the Parish Hall. They

trimmed bushes, raked out leaves and old debris, plus weeded where necessary. It looks nice now, so please check it out when you have a chance! For “buildings,” many church folks have helped to kick into high gear the plan to replace the preschool’s sprinkler system, site of ongoing leaks since late-October. This project also encompasses our kitchen plumbing issues in an effort to replace aging and decaying pipes. Numerous meetings have been held over the past month to help strategize and plan this endeavor over a tight eight week period when the preschool is closed for summer break. In particular, we would like to thank the project’s “administrative leadership” of Mary Nickerson, backed up by Noel Constantino. Heading the entire complicated project are the two co-leaders of the team: Jim Millins and David Turner who have done (and are doing) a tremendous amount of work to finally resolve our plumbing issues. We thank all of these outstanding contributors!

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.



FIRST PARISH REGATTA

Don't miss this year's family day on the North River or

the pizza party in the evening! Join us on the North River on **Sunday, July 22**, followed by a late afternoon pizza party at the home of Peter and Roberta Fairbanks. Both parts of the day are for all ages. Here are the specifics:

9-10 am: Head to the Bridge Street/Union Street canoe launch on the Marshfield side of

the river. Bring your canoe or kayak and a picnic lunch. (Don't forget paddles, life preservers, and sunblock!) Leave the canoe launch and paddle upstream on your own schedule to the picnic and swimming beach at the Couch property in Marshfield. We'll be going WITH the tide- much easier and more fun!!

11:30 am - 12:30 pm (estimated): Swim and picnic at the Couch property. We'll leave when the tide turns.

12:30 or 1:00 pm: Start back WITH the tide. *Optional: Stop at the home of Ralph and Betsy Gordon (short break, beautiful location, bathroom available).* Return to the canoe launch and your car. Take a few hours to relax at home, then come to the Pizza Party.

5:00 pm: Family pizza party at the home of Peter and Roberta Fairbanks (1243 Union Street, Marshfield). Bring \$5.00 per person for pizza and an appetizer or dessert to share. There is a lovely swimming pool (a favorite of the children) and a gorgeous view of the River.

If you need to borrow a canoe or kayak, we may be able to find one for you. And if you don't feel comfortable in a canoe or kayak, we will try to find space for you on a pontoon boat. Pontoon seats are limited, though, so call Marcia or Scott Babcock (781-659-2956) soon to reserve your space. If you have a canoe or kayak to loan or plan to bring a pontoon or motor boat that can take extra people, please let Marcia or Scott know, too.



Please check the lost and found bin, located under the Welcome Table outside the Parish Hall. Any items not claimed by the end of the church year will be disposed of appropriately.