

# The Spire

The Newsletter of  
**First Parish of Norwell,  
Unitarian Universalist**  
24 River Street  
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[www.firstparishnorwell.org](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org)

August 15, 2018  
Volume XVI, Issue 11

## Sunday Services - 10 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry  
preaching unless otherwise indicated

## Sunday August 19

Fresh Air and Fellowship Walk

Join us for a for a walk through the Norris Reservation to the Gordon home on the North River for refreshments and a visit with members of First Parish. Shastin and Scott Garland will lead the group and will depart promptly at 10 am from the **NORRIS PARKING** lot. If it is raining, or if you prefer to not walk, you can drive directly to the Gordon home at 111 Chittenden Lane for refreshments and conversation (note: their home is on a gravel road just past the paved turnaround at the end of Chittenden). If you prefer to walk to the Gordon home, but need a ride back to your car at the Norris parking lot, the Gordons are happy to give you a lift.

If you wish to walk both ways, you will probably get back to your car around 11:30 to 11:45.

## Sunday, August 25

Summer worship service with Rev. Lise - topic TBA

## Sunday, September 2

Join us for our annual breakfast and brief church clean-up. We'll begin at 10 am by sharing a potluck breakfast, then roll up our sleeves to tidy and clean our beloved church home. We'll be finished by 1 pm at the latest. If you can't stay the whole time, no worries. All help and fellowship are welcome.

**WE ARE UU!**



**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](mailto:lsherry@uuma.org)

**Director of Religious Education:**

Gabe Millins, x12  
[DREfirstparishnorwell@gmail.org](mailto:DREfirstparishnorwell@gmail.org)

**Music Director:**

Gingy Grimes  
[gingygrimes@gmail.com](mailto:gingygrimes@gmail.com)

**Office Staff:**

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10  
[office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org)

Donna McDonald, Bookkeeper, x14  
[donna@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:donna@firstparishnorwell.org)

**Parish Committee 2018-2019:**

Chair: Dave Hockman  
Members: Scott Garland, Mary Mercier,  
Amanda Metzger and Prue Miller

**Treasurer:** Dave Traggorth

**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of the Spire is  
**Monday, September 3, 2018.** Submissions  
should be emailed to Hope at  
[office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org).

**Sunday, September 9**

Backpack Blessing and  
Multigenerational Water Communion Service



Join all ages as we bless our young students' backpacks along with briefcases, purses, diaper bags and other conveyances that may be brought forward as we all begin our fall schedule again. We'll follow this with our Water Communion Service where we share water from the sources that fed us spiritually this summer, whether that was the Ganges, an ocean, the North River or our own garden hoses. The water we blend together represents our loving and diverse community, and will be used for other blessings throughout the year. After the service, join Rev. Lise to disperse last year's water in the Memorial Garden. If you forget your own water collection, we'll have proxy water available. *(Water Communion chalice logo courtesy of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, MD)*

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**LISE'S LETTER**

Climatically and seasonally, summer seems to be a time of ripening. Crops and animals grow and get bigger, and humans do, too. Think of how quickly our hair grows during the summer months. We say that children grow like weeds! If we're still fortunate enough to be able to spend lots of time outdoors (work and other obligations allowing), it's also a time for hiking, swimming, gardening, using our muscles in ways, perhaps, that they haven't been used for months. Or it might be a time of rest in the sun, relaxing and storing up energy for the more stressful and colder months to come. This time of respite allows us to build our strength, too.

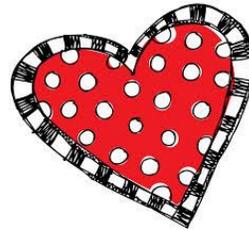
But things don't always happen on a schedule. Last week when we (Nelson and I) were driving back from seeing our son on the Pacific Crest Trail, we witnessed the car ahead of us hit, and most likely kill a fawn. The car pulled over immediately, I pulled over a little ways in front of it, got out of my car and walked back to check on the driver. He was understandably and visibly shaken. He told me he had slowed down so as not to hit the deer, but didn't see her young fawn following right behind her. He wondered aloud whether the fawn was dead, and I, who had seen the young creature tumble and roll off the road assured him, quietly, it probably was. But, I told him, a second fawn had stayed safely on the other side of the road. This seemed to brighten him a little. I said, "I'd give you a hug, but I don't know you." And then, of course, I gave him a hug.

That human contact was something we both seemed to need. Was it reassurance of life in the face of death? An act of accepting and forgiving a mistake? Recognizing that this one act of harm did not take away from his humanity, his creature connection to the rest of our interdependent web? For the remainder of that day and often in the days that followed I thought about the incident I had witnessed in such a very brief span of time. So much changed so quickly! A young life ended. The deer and sibling fawn were left with an absence, a hole in their existence that hadn't been there before. Three humans were affected, too, although I can only attest to my own experience: sadness, a realization that life can change in an instant, that we shouldn't take anything for granted, and how difficult it is to remember these lessons in the day to day busyness of life, and finally, that the fawn would provide nourishment for other living animals, plants and insects in its death.

I had wanted to write about something light and summery for you all, but this story wouldn't let me leave it unwritten. It speaks of illusion, impermanence, and the reminder to be grateful for all that we have. It reminds

us of loss, grief, and the knowledge that life, with full, warm and ripening summer days, will circle 'round again, and again, and again.

Blessings,  
Rev. Lise



## CARING CORNER

The Pastoral Care Team is reaching out and providing support this summer to several in the church family: Denise Rachel is at her Norwell Avenue home with family and close friends providing day-to-day support. Ed Mosher, with Carol at his side, made it to his beloved Rockland, Maine for vacation. We are continuing food support and transportation for several others. Everyone is welcome to join the Casserole Brigade and transport crew - contact Sue Robinson ([artsue45@hotmail.com](mailto:artsue45@hotmail.com)).

We wish Deane Howard steady improvement following minor heart surgery earlier this summer.

Our love and caring to Rev. Lise and Nelson on the death of their beloved dog, Nahna. There is a space missing in their family - we all have many fond memories of Nahna's unique personality.

Fast healing to Betsey Detwiler who broke her wrist in a fall at the Cape. Surgery was needed to stabilize the fractures. She is back in Norwell but not driving yet - calls and cards are welcome.

We await news of the arrival of Dave and Julia Traggorth's baby, due at the end of August.

We are also sending love and support to our Office Administrator, Hope Weinman, who will soon have outpatient surgery.

Peter and Roberta Fairbanks are delighted to announce the birth of their new grandson.

Clark Peter Fairbanks was born on August 1 to Ross and Sarah Fairbanks. He joins big sisters Brooke (age 4) and Emma (age 2).

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](mailto: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).



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

*“Life becomes religious whenever we make it so: When some new light is seen, when some deeper appreciation is felt, when some larger outlook is gained, when some nobler purpose is formed, when some task is well done.”*

*-Sophia Lyon Fahs*

Happy August to you and I hope you are each enjoying these long summer days. I am grateful and excited to have the opportunity to serve First Parish as DRE. Why? Because the children and families of this church are amazing and move me with their depth, authenticity, and kindness... over and over and over again. I am overwhelmed with hope when I anticipate how this very group of youngsters will grow into adults and contribute to an ever changing global community. Perhaps they will identify this church as a place that helped their souls grow. How lucky are we to be here now? I'm going to need your help. I want to hear your ideas, your thoughts, and have conversations about your opinions. As I glance back and “wave” at the DRE's who've come before me at FPNUU and then turn to wave ahead at those who will come after me, I am grateful to be here now. I ask for your patience, your

understanding, and your kindness, because I (too) am perfectly human and perfectly imperfect.

Our three-year thematic rotation of curricula at First Parish includes World Religion, Unitarian Universalism, and Our Jewish and Christian Roots. This year the children up to grade six will be exploring our Jewish and Christian Roots with the curricula of “SuperHeroes: Bible People” and “Bibleodeon.” I've received positive feedback and enthusiasm from church members about the importance of this year's upcoming exploration of Bible stories. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in Our Whole Lives (OWL), and we are happy to be welcoming a friend and neighbor from a neighboring church to the group. If you know any families with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders outside FPN who may be interested in learning more about OWL, please reach out to them with a conversation and a warm invitation! I would love to answer any questions they may have. I am ready and excited to help you register your child(ren) for 2018-2019!

We are still seeking

- 1-2 teachers to be part of the year rotation for grades 2/3/4
- Previously OWL-trained teachers who may be willing to sub
- Volunteers who are interested in attending a 2 day training to teach OWL in the future

Please be in touch if you are interested. Thank you to all our volunteer teachers who will make our year possible and to all our parents of First Parish.

I look forward to seeing everyone in September when we gather, once again, in our beautiful church, among beautiful souls, to explore beautiful and complex questions and ideas. As you enjoy your summer pace, remember to scoop a sample of water in your travels (near or far) for our annual Water Communion, on September 9. I'm looking forward to hearing the stories of where your

water was “caught!” I am working Sunday-Thursday and available by phone or email as needed. My new “all things church” email is [DREfirstparishnorwell@gmail.com](mailto:DREfirstparishnorwell@gmail.com)

Last, thanks to the generosity of Denise Rachel, RE now has three overflowing bins of lovingly donated musical instruments. We look forward to enjoying them over the years, and generations, ahead! Sending you love and gratitude, Denise. The music continues...

Let’s “make it so,” shall we?  
Gabe Millins, DRE



## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This year our Sunday Religious Education classes and themes for worship will be focusing on our Christian and Judeo roots. This will also influence our adult religious education classes. Currently under consideration is a survey of Rev. John Buehren’s book, *Understanding the Bible: an introduction for skeptics, seekers and religious liberals*. We’ll also read the UUA Common Read, *Justice on Earth*, edited by Manish Mishra-Manzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom as well as have some books to read and discuss on white privilege and race issues. Please don’t hesitate to give Rev. Lise any feedback regarding these choices, or let her know if there’s something you’d like to lead! Look for the dates and times for these topics in the September Spire and iSpis.



## FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

Are you a reader? Want to borrow a FPNUU book group selection?

This year, RE has purchased one copy of each book for anyone to borrow, read, and return. The book copies and printed schedules are

available to anyone on the top shelf of the bookshelf near the piano in our Parish Hall. We meet in the Fogg Parlor on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. Join us for any book discussion throughout the year.

**September 5:** “Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine” by Gail Honeyman

**October 3:** “Nothing to Envy” by Barbara Demick and/or “The Girl with Seven Names” by Hyeonseo Lee

**November 7:** “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn” by Betty Smith

**December 5:** “Death at Wentwater Court” by Carola Dunn

**January 2:** Blind Date with a Book

A post-Christmas gift grab with a twist! Wrap up a book, and attach a label with a few clues, but not the actual title or author. For example, “Little Women” might say ‘historical novel - four sisters - local author’. (Don’t feel you need to buy the book - you can pass along a book from your own collection you’ve already read and enjoyed.) We’ll each pick one, open them together, and talk about our favorite books of the year.

**February 6:** Bring 10 copies of your favorite poem to share and discuss

**March 6:** “Great Small Things by Jodi Picolt

**April 3:** “Brave Companions” by David McCullough

**May 1:** “The Music Shop” by Rachel Joyce (The audiobook version is highly recommended.)

**June 5:** Shanghai Girls” by Lisa See

All are welcome! Hope to see you there!  
Gabe Millins





## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Committee will meet on **Sunday, September 16**, the second week of church, at 11:30 am in the Church Office. Newcomers are welcome. We especially want to know what younger families would enjoy.

**Sunday, September 2** at 10 am - Potluck breakfast and church clean up

**Sunday, September 9** at 10 am - opening Water Communion service

**Wednesday, September 12** - 5:00-6:30 pm Community Dinner (plans are to have a dinner the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month)

**Wednesday, October 10** - 5:00-6:30 pm Community Dinner

**Saturday, October 20** - All-ages Halloween Dance & Potluck - costume optional!

**Wednesday, November 14** - 5:00-6:30 pm - Community Dinner (same week as fair). (All hands will be need to help set up for fair and bring down boxes Wednesday pm)

**Saturday, November 17** - Holiday Fair

**Wednesday, December 12** - 5:00-6:30 pm Community Dinner

**Saturday, January 26** - Trivia Night and Potluck

**Sunday, February 3** - Super Bowl Party

**Sunday, February 10** - Chocolate Sale

**Saturday, February 23** - to be announced (will be a dance or potluck)

**February-March** - Canvass

**Saturday, April 6** - LGBTQ Dance

**Sunday, April 21** - Easter

**Saturday May 4** - Goods and Services Auction

**Saturday, May 18 or June 1** - Golf Tournament

**Sunday, June 16** - All Church/RE Potluck Lunch

Ongoing Activities:

Every Friday at 8:30 am - Breakfast at Sam's in Scituate Harbor (all are welcome).

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 6 pm - Men's Dinner at someone's home.

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month - Book Group - 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10 am - Alliance events

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



## HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Have you decided how to use your money from the \$20 Summer Challenge to help someone or some organization? Remember to write a short note about where your \$20 went and bring the note to church in September to post on our bulletin board.

Three of your choices from last summer's challenge were sent more donations (@ \$500 each) in June, from the Service Committee's remaining budget funds.

1. A reforestation program in Indonesia (with which Alan and Mai-Britt Prouty have worked)
2. Kiva micro loans — ours was designated for a biodigester for a farmer in Kenya
3. The US Equestrian Relief Fund

Our church also was a sponsor for a fund raising concert on August 11 for the UU Urban Ministry. We supplied hot dogs, chips and drinks for 250 people. Thank you to those people whose \$20 went to this event. The remaining money came from the Service Committee. Special thanks to Jack Wallace for finding this opportunity for us and for buying the food and, with his wife, Meg Mattern, delivering it to Boston.



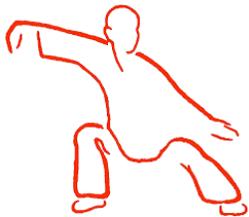
*UUUM's Director of Congregational and Volunteer Engagement, Marvin Venay, greets Meg Mattern and Jack Wallace. Photo courtesy of the UUUM.*

The calendar page will return in the September Spire. Meanwhile, view our online calendar here:

<http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/calendar.html>

*The real things haven't changed. It is still best to be honest and truthful; to make the most of what we have; to be happy with simple pleasures; and have courage when things go wrong.*

*~Laura Ingalls Wilder*



## TAI CHI

Our popular Tai Chi and Qigong classes will begin a new 8 week session on **Tuesday, September 18**

and continue each Tuesday through November 6. We gather at 9:15 am at the church Parish Hall for a group lesson with instructor Mike Showstack. \$50 is payable at the first class. No special equipment, clothing, or shoes are needed. New students are welcome at any time - try it once as a "drop-in" for \$5. Prior registration is not necessary. Begin the new church year with a great way to relax, heal and improve balance. Invite friends and neighbors. Contact Sue Robinson for additional information at [artsue45@hotmail.com](mailto:artsue45@hotmail.com) or 781-294-8840.

