

# 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)

November 8, 2018  
Volume XVII, Issue 3

## Sunday Services - 10 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry  
preaching unless otherwise indicated

### November 11:

#### **Acknowledging PTSD in our Veterans Outreach Sunday**

For generations we've known that our veterans didn't always come home as the same people they were before they went to war. Finally, we are acknowledging the deep psychic harm caused by war, but there's still too much stigma involve. How can we spiritually and mentally help our veterans live the best lives they can? At the end of our service, we'll ring our church bell at 11:11 and all are welcome to join the events on the Norwell Common.

### November 18: Thanksgiving and Gratitude Rev. Lise and Gabe Millins, DRE

Join us for our all-ages service which includes our cider and bread communion (non-gluten offerings will also be available).

### November 25: TBD by the Worship Committee

Happy  
Thanksgiving 



**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.com](mailto:DREfirstparishnorwell@gmail.com)

**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, December 3, 2018.** Submissions  
should be emailed to Hope at  
[office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org).

## LISE'S LETTER



On Saturday morning, along with Mary Nickerson and Patti Walters, I went to a workshop on

Welcoming Congregations in Framingham. We thought this would be a good thing to do since we're in the process of renewing our Welcoming status and our congregation approved this process last spring at our annual meeting. Much of the three hour workshop was spent on learning more about the identities and challenges of being transgender. It was a good topic to focus on as that was the main area we discovered our congregation needs to learn more about when we did our re-assessment a couple of years ago.

As a learning tool we watched a documentary about a transgender woman named Treasure who was forced into being an informant on drug dealers in her neighborhood. Unfortunately, the police, in the suburban area where she lived, gave her identity away and she was violently killed as retribution. As we learned more about her story we discovered how her family lovingly accepted her transition, how many transgender women are forced into prostitution or other high-risk jobs to survive because people will not hire them. We also saw a community center that offers weekly space to transgender folks so they can safely be themselves with others who understand what they're going through. The joy and freedom that the trans community felt in this community center was beautiful to see. They danced, did art work, experimented with their physical adornments and listened to and mentored one another with love. Don't we all need that kind of space where we feel safe and loved?

Another big part of the workshop was to learn about some of the changes to the Welcoming Congregation program. For instance, did you

**WE ARE UU!**

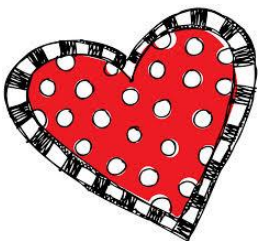
know that we have some more letters to add to our UU alphabet soup? In addition to LGBTQ we also have TGQNB (Transgender, Genderqueer, Non-Binary) to learn. The UUA is introducing the following five practices of Welcoming Congregations Renewal:

- Become a Welcoming Congregation (Check! We've done this.)
- Welcoming Worship Services. (We do this too—our services about LGBTQ rights and challenges qualify.)
- Welcoming Days of Observance. (Observing the Transgender Day of Remembrance as we've done is an example of this. There are many more days to observe as well.)
- Welcoming Congregation Module (The UUA is going to offer learning experiences in person and on-line to keep us current.)
- Support a Welcoming Project (We do this too—we contribute yearly through our Outreach Sunday and we've sponsored high school dances the last two years.)

Go to <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/lgbtq-tgqnb-five-pillars> if you want more information on these five practices.

It was nice to learn some new information and also feel affirmed for the good work we're already doing. Speaking of . . . on **Tuesday, November 20**, from 6:30-7:30 or 8 pm we'll be having another vigil for the Transgender Day of Remembrance at the Norwell Common. Bring candles and posters. I hope to see you there!

Blessings, Rev. Lise



## CARING CORNER

Our thoughts go out to Mary Mercier who is having outpatient hand surgery this week. She expects to be "laying low"

a few days - cards and phone calls are appropriate.

Much love and support to the family of Ed Mosher who died Tuesday evening, October 16. As many of you know, he had been battling cancer for the last few years. In recent weeks he'd enjoyed time with family and friends, and on Tuesday night, he was watching the Red Sox game when he passed. Ed will be remembered at a memorial service on **Saturday, December 1** at 10:00 am at the Meetinghouse. A collation will follow in the Parish Hall. If you can help in any way, please contact Noel Constantino who is coordinating the collation.

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).



## CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

On **Tuesday, November 20** we'll have another vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance to honor all those who have been killed simply for being their authentic selves. We'll meet in the Norwell Common at 6:30 for a brief talk and time of solidarity. After, we'll hold posters for folks to see as they drive by. We'll finish by 8 pm at the latest. Speak with Mary Nickerson or Rev. Lise if you have questions.



## REV. LISE'S SABBATICAL

Perhaps you've heard rumblings that Rev. Lise is going on sabbatical. Well, the rumblings are true, but it won't be until the spring of 2020. Per the Letter of Agreement Rev. Lise has with FPNUU, Rev. Lise accrues one month of sabbatical leave for every year she is with us. After four years, she may take her first sabbatical if she'd like. She can wait longer to accrue more time, but she can't take any more than six months leave during any sabbatical. Additionally, she is obligated to return to FPNUU for one year after her sabbatical. Of course, she can return to FPNUU for longer than one year as well! This is just something that is written into most agreements since a few ministers in the UUA would leave for their sabbatical and never come back leaving their church in a bit of a bind. Our Parish Committee along with relevant committees like worship and pastoral care are aware of Rev. Lise's plans and are beginning to discuss how they'd like to cover her duties during her absence. Rev. Vicki also took a sabbatical several years ago and different committees, along with help from some neighboring ministers, stepped in to help out. At this point, Rev. Lise is planning to walk El Camino in Spain and perhaps go to Plum Village in France for more Buddhist experiences. We will keep you informed as plans develop.



## HOLIDAY FAIR

Come One, Come All to the Holiday Fair!  
**Saturday, November 17,**  
9:00 - 2:30

Can you smell the sweet breads, pies, cookies, baked beans, chili and chicken pot pie? Bring a good appetite for lunch and bring your kids to have fun in the Toy Shop. Come shop for a gift basket, wonderful knitted or hand-made items, holiday decorations or a good book to enjoy.

Support us by buying raffle tickets for some great items: a crocheted wrap by Staci Carey, an Italian gift basket by Peg Kitchenham and a toddler sweater by Joanne Howard.

We have also had the exciting donation of a winning Mass. Lottery ticket worth \$1,000. Bids on this can be made this Sunday at Coffee Hour and at the Fair.

Dave Horton will very nicely pick up heavy items with his truck on Friday, November 16. Call him directly to make arrangements. His phone number is 781-829-0123 or 781-424-4002.

We don't take TV's, large exercise equipment etc. You should take a picture of any large furniture or other items, which we can post on a board or other site. Items left in sheds must be covered.

Bring your donated treasures the week of the fair and put your books in the parlor, toys in the back hall and treasures upstairs where Grandma's Attic will be. Help is needed to bring things down after the Community Dinner on **Wednesday, November 14**. We will be here from 9-3 and 7-9 on **Thursday, November 15** and 9-5 on **Friday, November 16**. Your baked goods and art work can be dropped off then.

See you at the Fair! Come make some special memories!



## CREATE FOR THE HOLIDAY FAIR BAKE TABLE!

Everyone loves the homemade breads, pies, cookies and treats at the Holiday Fair's Bake Table. Your contributions could range the gamut from sweets to candy to pickles, casseroles and baked beans. There's nothing like home cooking especially for the holidays, so please make something for the Bake Table. Thanks to all for your help: Ready, set, BAKE!



## NOTES FROM THE DRE

*“The religious way is the deep way, the way that sees what physical eyes alone fail to see, the intangibles of the heart of every phenomenon. The religious way is the way that touches universal relationships; that goes high, wide and deep, that expands the feelings of kinship.” -Sofia Fahs*

I think we grown-ups can underestimate youth. It's part of our larger culture. “Protect them”, “it's too soon to tell them”, “don't scare them”. Truth is, children can tolerate, discuss, and understand topics that some think they aren't ready for. Sometimes it's just the adults who “aren't ready to tell.” When I find myself editing myself with kids, I'll often ask myself, “is this about ME or THEM?” Sometimes I soul search. Sometimes I learn as I go.

I've been amazed twice this month at First Parish (Lots of little wows, of course): How the OWL kids have connected with each other and also how the kids responded to being in church for the multi-gen light service. We have an owlette in our family, and we talk about church a lot at our kitchen table, in the car, at the bus stop... you see where I'm going. When I watch the OWL kids together, they look like they've grown up together. Some of them have, either through outside friendships or within church walls. Some are new to First Parish. There's been a “radical acceptance” among them. They take each other for who they are and where they are at. It seems to be working, and there are lessons to be learned from watching them. If only we were all so lucky. My second big WOW, was watching the youth of the church during our pilot multi-gen light service. I overwhelmingly heard positive feedback from the those in the congregation that gave me feedback. One said something along the lines of, “At first I didn't think it was a good idea, I thought they



## FPN'S CASSEROLE BRIGADE

The Pastoral Care Team members (Betsey Detwiler, Marcia

Babcock, Noel Constantino, Joyce Hockman, Joanne Howard, and Sue Robinson) have been reaching out to a number of folks within the Parish over the summer and fall. Many of you have helped with rides, phone calls, meals, visits, and much more. We also stock our church freezer with casseroles that are available at a moment's notice. Consider the next time you are cooking to set aside a 1 or 2 serving size meal for emergency use by parishioners. At your convenience, bring your casserole (in a disposable container) to the church kitchen and follow the labeling instructions on the freezer door. This will be an easy way for us to provide food when needed. Contact Sue Robinson for additional information.

If you are donating a basket to the Holiday Fair, please plan on dropping it off no later than **Sunday, November 11.**

should pay attention, but as I watched I thought ‘they ARE paying attention.’” One person gave me negative feedback. The kids? They enjoyed themselves. They talked about the sermon afterwards. They did it. They sat and were present for a sermon that was not necessarily geared towards little ears, but was geared for big hearts. And big hearts are what these kids have. *Aren’t we lucky?* We will see how it plays out, as it was just the first time, and perhaps concerns raised will ring true. I am open to trying. We are all learning as we go.

In my efforts to learn from other DRE’s I have joined a couple online boards and will be meeting monthly with other DRE’s from this corner of Massachusetts. A new-to-me phrase that has popped up in on-line circles is “a quiet church is a dying church.” Well, I have given that more thought than I will admit and have moved deeper than its veneer. But now when I notice Joy, Laughter, Protest, Questions, Faith Formation, Energy, Forgiveness and Truth knocking on our door and flowing throughout our halls, rooms, and outdoor space I am grateful for the unique life that the young people here bring. They are our future. They are our allies. They never fail to bring me great hope. Parents, keep on at it because you are doing a wonderful job with these timeless souls! As a member reminded me this week, the original sprinkling vs dunking debate that divided, and launched us almost 377 years ago was focused on what was right by the children who were being baptized. Some poetry may rest there.

Wishing peace to you and yours as we enter the end of the year and her holidays. May we continue to grow and practice radical acceptance.

Gabe Millins,  
Director of Religious Education



## NEW ALL-CHURCH CAMPAIGN!

Announcing the “*Returns for Planet Earth*” program to collect your recycling “returnables” of bottles and cans to benefit First Parish of Norwell. This will run from Veteran’s Day (November 11) to Earth Day (April 22) and here’s how it will work:

**What:** There is a five cent (5¢) deposit on *carbonated soft drink, beer, malt beverage, and sparkling water* containers sold in Massachusetts. The state allows the return of clean, empty deposit bottles and cans to area redemption centers.

**Why:** Recycling and redemption! We recycle to help our planet and will earn money while doing so. All proceeds raised will benefit our Helen Fogg Service Committee.

**How:** Start bringing your bottles and cans to FPN’s open middle carriage shed (where a sign is posted) in the church’s south “B” parking lot. These will be sorted and brought to a local redemption center on a regular basis. With the holiday season coming up fast, please start collecting now and throughout the winter... then drop your returnables off at church.

**Questions:** Please contact Les Taylor with any questions you have at 781-837-2929 or [lestaylor@me.com](mailto:lestaylor@me.com).



## FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

All are welcome to attend the next meeting of First Parish Book Group, on **Wednesday, December 5** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. We will be discussing “*Death at Wentwater Court*” by Carola Dunn, a lighthearted mystery set in post-WWI England.



## HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

For the past several years, members of First Parish have provided Christmas gifts for 40 foster children on the South Shore. Once again, our church has committed to this project. Starting November 4 at Coffee Hour after church (and continuing each Sunday until all children are selected), there will be index cards set out with the specific needs and wishes of each child. Please consider selecting a child as we don't want to disappoint any of these children.

asylum. Join with UUSC for Guest at Your table to learn more about UUSC's and our nation's involvement in Central America- historically and presently- and our courageous Migrant Justice partners." Boxes will be available, for those who use them, starting **Sunday, November 18** and donations will be collected through **Sunday, December 30**. Please see Gabe Millins, the point person within the congregation for this year's annual Guest at Your Table program.

Start looking for great deals on gloves, mittens and hats to be a part of our annual mitten tree! It will go up in our Meeting House after Thanksgiving. Gabe would be happy to store them in her office if you would like to donate ahead of time. Donations will go to Carolina Hill in Marshfield.



## UPDATED DIRECTORY

Office Administrator

Hope Weinman and Membership Committee Chair Elizabeth Robinson are busily working on an updated FPN phone directory. If you have not done so, please update your household's listing by **Friday, November 16**. You can email Hope at [office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org) or see Elizabeth at Coffee Hour to do so.

## IMPORTANT SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION



Should severe weather this winter necessitate cancellation of any

church activities, we will make every effort to leave an outgoing message on the church's voicemail and send an all-church email with the information. Depending on the amount of advance notice, check our website as well: [www.firstparishnorwell.org](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org).

We will notify WATD radio in Marshfield (95.9 FM), WCVB - TV (Channel 5), WHDH 7News and radio/AM 680 if church services are cancelled. We will also make every effort to post updates on our Facebook page. However, power outages or lack of internet access may affect our ability to communicate with you all. **Please be cautious and use your best judgment!**


## RE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Guest at Your Table will begin this month and run 6 weeks. This is a long standing program of the

UUSC. The 2018-2019 theme is "Justice Across Borders." From their website: From the Northern Triangle of Central America, to deserts of Mexico and Arizona, to detention centers in the United States, the road away from danger is paved with injustices. Partnering with grassroots allies along the Central American migration trail, UUSC addresses root causes, supports migrants in transit, and protects the right to seek

**NOVEMBER 2018**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>For more information on any of the events at the James Library, please visit <a href="http://www.jameslibrary.org">www.jameslibrary.org</a> or call them at 781-659-7100</p>			<p>7</p> <p>Alliance, PH 10 am</p> <p>Book Group, FP 7 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7-9 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Organ Tuning, MH 9 am-12 pm</p> <p>Trumpet Lessons (JM), PH 3-7 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Mama Steph concert, (James Lib.) 10 am- 12 pm</p> <p>Private rental, PH 12-4 pm</p> <p>Scrapbookers (MO), PH 4-11 pm</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Handchime Choir, Sky. 9:30-9:50 am</p> <p>Morning Svc. &amp; Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hr., PH 11 am</p> <p>Bellringing, MH 11:11 am</p> <p>Service Comm., FP 11:30 am</p> <p>Youth Group, PH 5-7 pm</p> <p>Private Rental, PH 7:30-11 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Fair set up, FP &amp; Sky.</p> <p>Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Pastoral Care Team, Sky. 12 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Fair set up, FP &amp; Sky.</p> <p>iSpi deadline, 9 am</p> <p>Community Dinner, PH &amp; Kit. 4-6:45 pm</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Fair set up, PH, FP &amp; Sky.</p> <p>Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Piano Tuning, MH 11:30 am</p> <p>Trumpet Lessons (JM), MH 3-7 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>HOLIDAY FAIR</b> <b>9 AM-2:30 PM</b></p> 
<p>18</p> <p>Handchime Choir, Sky. 9:30-9:50 am</p> <p>Morning Service &amp; Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour, PH 11 am</p> <p>Finance Comm., FP 11:30 am</p>	<p>19</p> <p>AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am</p> <p>Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p>	<p>21</p> <p>iSpi deadline 9 am</p> <p>Norwell HS Football Banquet, PH 3-7 pm</p> 	<p>22</p> <p><b>Church Office closed</b></p> 	<p>23</p> <p><b>Church Office closed</b></p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Handchime Choir, Sky. 9:30-9:50 am</p> <p>Morning Service &amp; Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour, PH 11 am</p>	<p>26</p> <p>AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Tai Chi, Sky. 9:15 am</p> <p>Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm</p> <p>Parish Comm., FP 7 pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>iSpi deadline 9 am</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7-9 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Staff Meeting, Ofc. 10:30 am</p> <p>Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Memorial Service Set-up, PH (daytime)</p> <p>Trumpet Lessons (JM), PH 3-7 pm</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Memorial Service for Ed Mosher, MH 10 am Collation to follow in MH</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Handchime Choir, Sky. 9:30-9:50 am</p> <p>Morning Svc. &amp; Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hr. PH 11 am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>SPIRE deadline</p> <p>AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Worship Comm., Sky. 12 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Alliance Holiday Luncheon, FP 10 am</p>  <p>Book Group, FP 7 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Trumpet Lessons (JM), PH 3-7 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Private rental, PH 4-10 pm</p>