

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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January 9, 2019
Volume XVII, Issue 5

Sunday Services - 10 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless indicated otherwise

January 13: "A Prisoner's Life"

This is an **Outreach Sunday** and our offerings will go to Partakers—a prison education and mentor program that several folks in our church volunteer for.

January 20: "A Reflection" Joanne Howard, Pulpit Guest

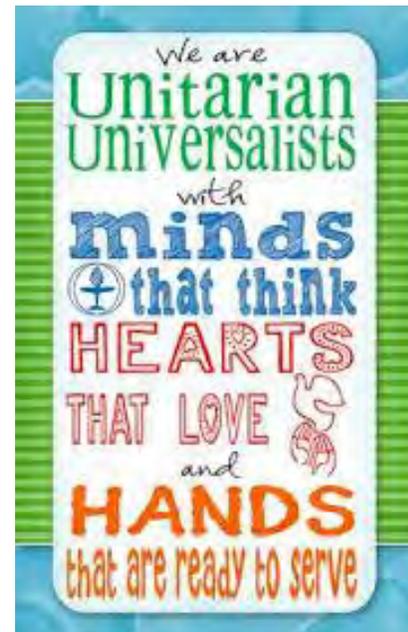
Joanne will share some historical learnings about First Parish's history in race relations.

January 27: "Martin Buber's 'I and Thou'"

Martin Buber was a Jewish German theologian who believed that humans ultimately find meaning in their relationships with one another. His book on this topic was written in 1923. What wisdom can we glean from it for today?

February 3: "Chinese New Year"

How do the Chinese celebrate their New Year?
What spiritual meanings are involved?





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
lasherry@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education:

Gabe Millins, x12
DREfirstparishnorwell@gmail.com

Music Director:

Gingy Grimes
gingygrimes@gmail.com

Office Staff:

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10
office@firstparishnorwell.org

Donna McDonald, Asst. Treasurer, x14
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, February 4, 2019. Submissions
should be emailed to Hope at
office@firstparishnorwell.org.



LISE'S LETTER

On Sunday at church we observed our annual Burning Bowl Ritual. If you aren't familiar with it, it's a time when we take stock of our place in the world, physically, mentally, spiritually, and decide it's time to part with something in our lives. We write that "something" on a piece of paper and then offer it to the flame in our Burning Bowl. The fire engulfing our "something" is symbolic of casting that thing out of our lives, destroying it really, so we can move on into a hopefully improved state of being. At the end of my homily on Sunday I suggested this, "Maybe, just maybe, we want to get rid of the idea of getting rid of something. Maybe we can learn to embrace and love ourselves just the way we are. How would that be?"

How would that be?

What if instead of critiquing ourselves and the things and people around us, we instead considered what we could learn from our mistakes and the relationships that cause us frustration, anxiety and sadness? Instead of being disappointed with ourselves that we didn't get up early and go to the gym, what if we recognized and embraced the fact that maybe we needed more sleep? What if we considered the idea that maybe we'd rather spend that early morning time with our family before we all part for the four corners for the day and we decide we can get exercise some other time? Maybe we could walk with our family in the evening? You get the idea.

I was reading up on New Year's resolutions and it seems the most popular ones are linked to consumer marketing: losing weight and self-care (gym memberships, sports clothes and accessories, diet plans and meals, health insurance); saving more money (buying stocks and bonds, going on vacations to fancy places, buying new homes or cars); and being more organized (storage bins, calendars, housekeeping gadgets). How do resolutions like being kinder or more spiritual fit into our

WE ARE UU!

consumer maze? As Amanda Mull, a staff writer at *The Atlantic* said, "I'm sure someone's working on it."

I think we all see things in our lives that we wish were different. I think what I'm advocating is that we first recognize and accept ourselves the way we are. Then perhaps we think of evolving rather than changing. A biologist might disagree with me, but from a layperson's perspective, it seems that evolving takes more of who we are with us— it's not such a black and white issue. It seems like it's a kinder way to be with oneself as well. And while there doesn't yet seem to be a product for inducing more kindness, I think we all can agree we need more of it— both for ourselves and in the world.

Happy New Year!
Rev. Lise

Rev. Lise will be out of town January 18-21. She will be checking her email, but please contact the Church Office (781-659-7122 or office@firstparishnorwell.org) or Sue Robinson (781-294-8840 or artsue45@hotmail.com) for pastoral emergencies.



CARING CORNER

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).

CALLING ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

The Annual Budget Meeting is set for **Sunday, February 3**, following Coffee Hour. It will meet in the Fogg Parlor at 11:30 am. Please be there with your budget in hand or if you cannot make it, please arrange for someone from your committee to be there in your place. Looking forward to seeing you on the 3rd.

Laurie Brown
Finance Committee Chair



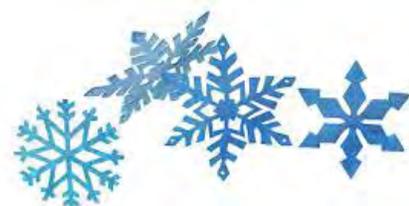
CREATE YOUR OWN VALENTINES

You are invited to a card-making party hosted by the Alliance on **Wednesday, January 16** at 10 am in the Parish Hall. Bev Gardner and Linda Hurt will lead us in making our own Valentines and other special cards for friends and family. All materials will be provided and light refreshments will be served. This was so much fun last year that we decided to repeat the program. We hope to see you then.



THANK YOU!

Dozens of hats, mittens, gloves and socks were donated to Carolina Hill because of your generosity. Thank you for making someone else a bit warmer this winter!





HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." ~Aesop

We hope you will join the Service Committee for these two events scheduled in January:

Wednesday, January 9, 5:00 - 6:20 pm
Community Dinner in our Parish Hall.

This is our monthly second Wednesday dinner open to church members and the wider community. Come, bring your family or friends, and enjoy a free meal (chili, cornbread, salad and dessert this month). Help is always welcome (contact Betsey Drollett if you would like to help with food or Marcia Babcock to help with set up, clean, up, or serving.). We usually have between 60 and 90 guests from the both the community and our church member) so you can meet some new, interesting people. We hope to see you there!

Sunday, January 27 at 7:00 pm
Film showing of "It's Criminal" in our Parish Hall.

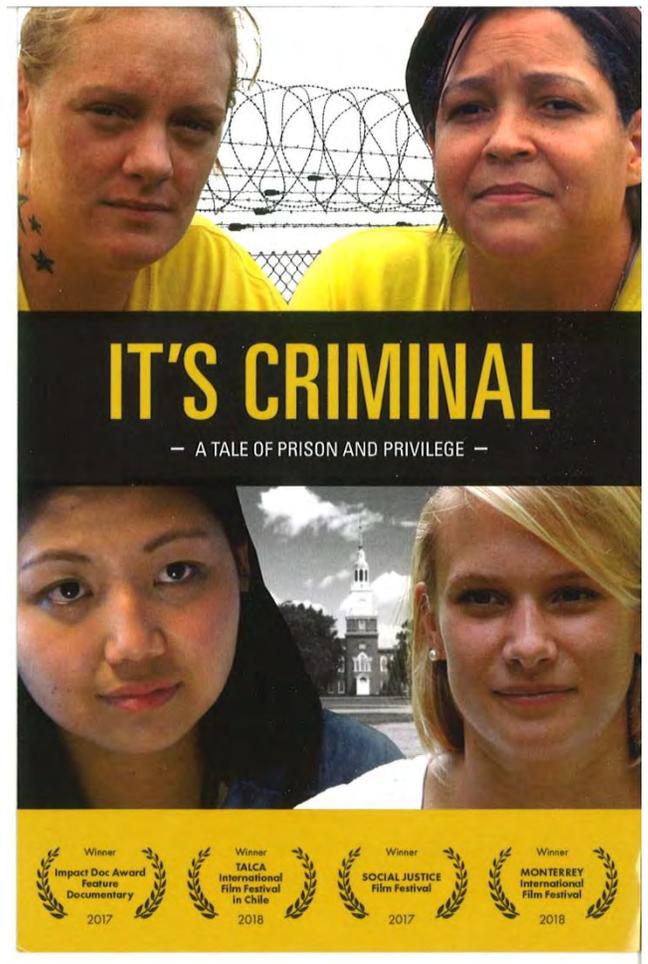
From the promotional material about this award winning film:

"It's Criminal is a powerful critique of the economic and social inequities that divide the United States. The feature documentary shares the life-changing journeys of incarcerated women and Dartmouth College students working together to write and perform a play about the imprisoned women. It's a transformational movie that delves into privilege, poverty, and injustice and also asks viewers to think about who is in prison and why. While exploring disparities, it also offers a poignant and inspiring story of how empathy can help bridge the divide."

Prison reform has become a major national topic. The US incarcerates far more people proportionately than any developed country in the world. Why? What can and what should we do to remedy this? For many years,

members of First Parish have worked on two programs to address this issue: the Partakers program that helps inmates earn BU College degrees to give them a chance to come out of prison with more opportunities, and the Massachusetts Bail Fund that helps low income men and women stay out of jail while they wait for their court dates. "It's Criminal" gives us another look inside our prison system.

We always welcome new members to the committee. Join us and add your ideas for future projects. Talk with any member of the committee: Scott Babcock, Marcia Babcock, Jack Wallace, Debbie Chase, Bev Gardner, Steve Hurt, Jeannette Mitchell, Alan and Mai-Britt Prouty, Cathie DiMassa, Peter Twomey, Alex Gordon, Patty Crumley, and Paul Bourque.





FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

All First Parish book lovers are welcome to attend the First Parish Book Group discussions. We have fun discussions, and we don't take ourselves too seriously. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor.

Wednesday, February 6: Bring 10 copies of your favorite poem. We'll share and discuss them.

Wednesday, March 6: "Great Small Things" by Jodi Picoult. With richly layered characters and a gripping moral dilemma that will lead readers to question everything they know about privilege, power, and race, *Small Great Things* is the stunning new page-turner from Jodi Picoult.



NOTE FROM THE DRE

"And that it may be true, at least in poetic terms, that beginnings are like seeds that contain within them everything that will ever happen." - from the memoir *Hourglass* by Dani Shapiro

There's something about January that makes me feel clear headed, awake, and ready. A new beginning. Yet again. It likely has 75% to do with over scheduled December being in my rearview mirror, 20% because of the cooler and crisper air, and 5% my driving need to purge every corner, drawer and closet until I feel "set." In January, I make time to re-read my favorite Mary Oliver and Rumi poems. This happens every year. January feels deeply welcomed. (I also happened to bring two babies into the world in January. Other types of "beginnings". So there's that.)

Again I have promised myself the same resolutions: to drink more water and to read more books. I will spend some time assessing

honesty in my life... Locate my bluffs and push them out. I will aim for and hit my ideals more easily. And then, I will take a moment and be so grateful that I am human, I make mistakes, I can miss the mark, I learn, I love, and I move forward.

This year I commit to living with more compassion and forgiveness. To help others when I can. To laugh loudly without apology and to continue building my skills. What will you do with this year? How will you leave your world better than you find it this January? How will you help a child? How can you invite people to be closer to you... and to their authentic selves? How will you participate in our life here at First Parish? If you figure any of it out, let's please chat about it. You know where to find me.

May you find focus and spiritual growth in your journey through 2019 and "everything that will ever happen."

Gabrielle Millins,
Director of Religious Education



YOU'RE INVITED!

There will be an All-Church Potluck Supper and Trivia Game Night on **Saturday, January 26** at 5:30 pm. If you are new, we especially hope you will come to get to know us better.

No sign-up is necessary, but Peg Kitchenham will have a sheet to help us know what people plan to bring. Thank you to Jen Sulc for helping with the questions and to Les Taylor for coordinating the evening.



RETURNS FOR PLANET EARTH

Terrific job, First Parish! After eight weeks, close to \$70 has been raised for our Helen Fogg Service Committee. And there's still 3½ months to go in the campaign!

Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to collect and save their recycling "returnables" of empty bottles and cans (which includes *carbonated soft drink, beer, malt beverage, and sparkling water* bottles, plus any and all *aluminum cans*). Just look for the CRV marking, which includes our state initials of "MA" plus the "5¢" value. Once you have a sizable quantity collected, please bring the returnables to church anytime before April 21. The middle carriage shed bay in the south church parking lot makes for an easy drop-off at your convenience.

NEW OFFER: for those with a hardship, once you have collected a large quantity of returnable items, special pick-up may be arranged. Please contact Les Taylor with any questions you have (or to arrange collection) at 781-837-2929 or lestaylor@me.com. Thank you!



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Photographer Laura J. Cardello

"Immersed: A Photographic Exploration of Water"

Art Gallery Opening on **Friday, January 11**, 6-8 pm

On view January 11-February 1

All are welcome to attend this art gallery opening, meet the photographer, and enjoy food and wine while you view the beautiful work!

<http://www.jameslibrary.org/special-event/photographer-laura-j-cardello-art-gallery-opening/>

Masterworks for Piano Four-Hands with Heeyeon Chi and Victor Cayres

Sunday, January 27, 3:00 pm

Tickets: \$30 Adults, \$25 Seniors 65+, \$15 Students

From the faculties of Boston University and the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, award winning pianists Victor Cayres and Heeyeon Chi perform a Four Hands Piano Duo Concert of Classical Masterworks, including works by Dvorak, Mozart, Poulenc, and Rachmaninoff.

<http://www.jameslibrary.org/special-event/masterworks-for-piano-four-hands/>

Smart Phone Photography for Adults (ages 18+) with Professional Photographer David Lee Black

Saturday, February 2 from 11 am to 1 pm

\$25 per person - *space is limited*

<http://www.jameslibrary.org/special-event/photography-for-adults/>

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something."

- Neil Gaiman



JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			9 Community Dinner, PH 5 pm Carepartners' Support Grp., Sky. 6:30 pm Dancers, PH 7-8 pm	10 Church Office closes at 11:30 am Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	11 Trumpet Lessons (JM), PH 3-7 pm	12 OWL "Overnight" PH, FP & Kit. 3:30 pm to midnight 
13 Morning Svc. & Church School 10 am Coffee Hr., PH 11 am Finance Comm., FP 11:30 am	14 Men's Potluck @ Bernie Gardner's home, 5:30 pm AA, PH 8:30 pm	15 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm	16 iSpi deadline, 9 am Alliance, PH 10 am Dancers, PH 7-8 pm	17 Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	18 Trumpet Lessons (JM), Sky. 3-7 pm	19 Scrapbookers (JC), PH 8 am-9 pm
20 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Special Parish Meeting, MH 11 am	21 AA, PH 8:30 pm	22 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Parish Comm., FP 6:30 pm Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm	23 iSpi deadline 9 am Dancers, PH 7-8 pm	24 Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	25 Trumpet Lessons (JM), Sky. 3-7 pm	26 Memorial Service, MH 11 am Trivia Night/Potluck, PH 5:30 pm
27 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Movie/Discussion, PH 7 pm	28 AA, PH 8:30 pm	29 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm	30 iSpi deadline 9 am Dancers, PH 7-8 pm	31	1 Trumpet Lessons (JM), PH 3-7 pm	2 GROUND HOG DAY 