

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

February 6, 2019
Volume XVII, Issue 6

Sunday Services - 10 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless indicated otherwise

February 10: **Celebrating Friendship** Rev. Lise and Gabe Millins, DRE

Join us for this multigenerational service focusing on friendship of all kinds. It's also an **Outreach Sunday** and our offering will go to the Friendship Home here in Norwell.

February 17: **Boston Busing Revisited**

It's Black History Month and the attitudes towards the history of busing in Boston for desegregation purposes still seem to be mixed. What was learned? How could our UU principles inform the current situation?

February 24: TBA with Rev. Dick Fewkes

Our Minister Emeritus will be with us to share some of his wisdom.

March 3: **In Gratitude We Give**

First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist, is a wonderful, caring place. As we look at all we have, let's consider some ways to pay it forward both to the UUs who come after us and to our larger community. It's the beginning of our annual pledge season; what are you hoping for?

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
lusherry@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, Prue Miller and David Turner

Treasurer: Dave Traggorth

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of the Spire is
Monday, March 4, 2019. Submissions should
be emailed to Hope at
office@firstparishnorwell.org.



LISE'S LETTER

It's February again. So with mixed feelings, (because I think we should be aware of Black History all year long) I thought it would be good to write about Black History month. And, just because we learn some things in February, it doesn't mean we can't continue to learn things the rest of the year, right?

So how did Black History month get started? It began as Negro History Week back in 1926 during the week in February that included both President Lincoln's and Frederick Douglass' birthday. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which he founded, believed it was important to recognize the historical contributions and culture of Black Americans because more information and awareness in these areas would help others in the country overcome their prejudices against the black population. In 1976, fifty years later, President Ford formally endorsed what had become Black History Month as part of our Bi-Centennial Celebration.

And so here we are, 43 years later, still in the need of celebrating Black History Month as we work to become more aware of white privilege, the centrality of white culture, and move other cultures of color from the margins into the center. I recently saw an interview with the actor Will Smith, and even though he acknowledged that we continue to have an extremely difficult time in the US coming to terms with the inequities of race issues in our past and present, he also thinks that we are talking about those issues and working to right them more than ever before. For that I am thankful. It isn't easy, and it will probably become much more difficult before we get where we want to be, because the change that will get us there challenges the status quo. As we know, change is difficult, even if it's moving us in a direction we desperately want to go. One thing I think will help us greatly in this transition, is if we work to embrace an attitude of generosity. Our



country is truly blessed to have many resources and creative minds—let’s continue to find ways to share our abundance, our opportunities, and our power with all.

I want to close by sharing a poem by Maya Angelou called “A Pledge to Rescue Our Youth.” She wrote it in 2006, and though this is Black *History Month*, we also need to keep looking forward if we want our dreams to become reality.

Young women, young men of color, we add our voices to the voices of your ancestors who speak to you over ancient seas and across impossible mountain tops.

Come up from the gloom of national neglect, you have already been paid for.

Come out of the shadow of irrational prejudice, you owe no racial debt to history.

The blood of our bodies and the prayers of our souls have bought you a future free from shame and bright beyond the telling of it.

We pledge ourselves and our resources to seek for you clean and well-furnished schools, safe and non-threatening streets, employment which makes use of your talents, but does not degrade your dignity.

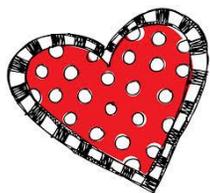
You are the best we have.

You are all we have.

You are what we have become.

We pledge you our whole hearts from this day forward.

Blessings,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

Baby August Traggorth is back home with his family following several days in the hospital.

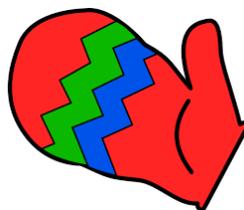
Roberta Fairbanks is healing well after knee surgery.

Our thoughts go out to Patty Crumley who is halfway through her treatments.

Ralph and Betsy Gordon welcomed a new granddaughter!

Quick healing to David Turner, who is being treated for shingles.

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)



IMPORTANT SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION

We have streamlined our procedures for notifying you of cancelled church events. We are no longer utilizing TV and radio stations. 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 (781-659-7122) and send an all-church email or iSpi newsletter with the information. We will also post an update on the church’s Facebook page (First Parish of Norwell Unitarian Universalist Church). If you are not a Facebook user yourself, you can still view our page, by clicking on the white “f” in the yellow stripe at the top of our homepage at www.firstparishnorwell.org. Depending on the amount of advance notice, check our website as well. Power outages or lack of internet access may affect our ability to communicate with you all. **Please be cautious and use your best judgment!**



FROM THE DRE

“Go now in peace, go now in peace. May the love of God surround you. Everywhere, everywhere you may go.” - Natalie

Sleeth, 1976

Early in January, I did a Time for All Ages with the congregation about the lyrics that we sing the children out with every Sunday, “Go Now in Peace”. I’ve heard it sung many ways, with words sometimes substituting for God, like “light.” It is the one song we sing nearly every single Sunday and I hoped to take a deeper look at it. We did. And it did not disappoint.

We talked about the line “go now in peace” and then broke it down. I asked the children and youth what they thought **GO** meant.

Run fast!

Leave.

Run.

Shoo!

I asked the children what they thought **NOW** meant. And one hit it out of the park.

In the present, at the particular time period that we are living in at this very second at this very minute on this very hour on this particular day on this occasion.

I then asked what **PEACE** meant:

To do something nonviolently or calmly.

To not goof around when you want to.

I then turned to the adults and asked them to chime in on what “go now in peace” means.

In right relationship. Feeling good about the person you were just talking too. That everything is okay.

Go now with our love.

Don’t be worried about things.

Love.

Go and leave feeling the support and love of the congregation.

Go in a centered, settled way after having been with your community.

Depart and travel with tranquility... placid calmness.

To be safe.

Leave in love.

It was a conversation that has stayed with me. Thank you to all who participated. Special thanks to Dexter Robinson for getting me the audio recording of the discussion so I could transcribe it for you. I like taking time to slow down and think about what we do and explore our meaning making. I plan to revisit “peace” again (and again) with the children.

Go now in peace,

~Gabe



IN GRATITUDE WE GIVE!

Our 2019-2020 Stewardship Drive, for the pledge year beginning July 1, 2019 has begun! It is in support of our wonderful worship, music, religious education, outreach and office staff. On February 17, we will mail the annual stewardship letter with your pledge form and giving guidelines. You may mail or drop off your pledge at any time. This year’s pledge drive includes a “Raffle of Fabulous Prizes,” given by members of the Finance Committee. On **Sunday, March 3** (Stewardship Sunday), Rev. Lise will give her “Sermon on the Amount”. We will have a box in the Parish Hall to receive your pledge and answer any questions you may have. The following **Sunday, March 10** is Commitment Sunday. Following the service, the Finance Committee is providing a delicious lasagna lunch in place of Coffee Hour. The raffle drawing for “fabulous prizes” will be held during the luncheon. *Only those who have turned in their pledge forms by Sunday, March 10, will be eligible for the prizes.* Come celebrate with us!

COMMUNITY DINNER UPDATE

Thanks to your time, commitment and enthusiasm, First Parish of Norwell is really making an impact in our local community. Working together, we are using our beautiful building, functional kitchen and trust in each other to create a social outlet for our friends and neighbors. But that's not all. Your support is deeply felt by the people who attend. For some, we are providing a needed meal, but everyone of our guests is grateful for the welcome we provide them as a congregation. We welcome dinner guests in many ways:

- Beautiful tables, with tablecloths, flowers and china
- Attentive servers, who make everyone feel good about being with us
- Clean and bright surroundings from our bathrooms to the floors
- Greeters who look our guests in the eye and say, "Welcome. So glad you could come."
- And on...

Welcoming folks to our tables, which we do so well, has multiple impacts. It gives our guests something to look forward to. For some, it helps them get through another day and, for others perhaps, our strong welcome supports their efforts to be kind and generous to those not touched by our dinners. In fact, due to your welcoming efforts and congregational support, our guests have donated nearly \$900 to local food pantries! Together with our guests, we have created a partnership that is also feeding hungry people in our local area we aren't reaching during dinner. You are an impressive church. I'm humbled by your dedication and inspired by your commitment. Thank you!

Postscript:

In case you want to see, by month, how many people you have touched and how they have given back, I created the table that appears at the top of page 6. Would you like to join in with our enthusiastic volunteers who, with the

support of the entire church, create excitement for our parish and a fun Community Dinner for all our guests where we invite our congregation, our friends and our neighbors to enjoy a fabulous home cooked meal? If so, try participating by:

- Signing up to prepare food (this can be done on your own schedule)
- Betsey Drollett - 781-934-6672 or DBWINDYHILL@gmail.com
- Setting up the morning of the dinner
- Marcia Babcock - 781-659-2956 or MARCIABAB@AOL.com
- Working the dinner itself in the kitchen, serving guests, cleaning up or greeting guests at the door
- Jack Wallace - 781-834-4696 or jeanjacques99@verizon.net
- Sitting with our guests and helping them feel welcome as you enjoy their company and your own dinner
- Inviting your friends and neighbors to attend
- Providing rides for people who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend
- Bring yourself, enjoy dinner with friends and neighbors to see how it all works
- Donate food or money.

~Jack Wallace



	PEOPLE	SERV-INGS	DONATED	PAN-RY
Total	562	906	\$959	
Average	70	113.25	\$120	
April 2018	58	82	\$127	Mfld.
May 2018	70	123	\$124	Nor.
June 2018	56	108	\$108	Scit.
September 2018	58	102	\$94	Hvr.
October 2018	92	110	\$127	Rckl.
November 2018	54	92	\$64	Hns.
December 2018	92	179	\$179	Mfld.
January 2019	82	160	\$137	Scit.
February 2019				Nor.

Handleman - come in your PJ's and bring a cuddly friend! We will also have a 50/50 raffle, with our share going to the Community Dinners. A bid form is listed on page 10. Peg Kitchenham will also have forms with her at Coffee Hour or you can email her at chrispegk@verizon.net.

What can you donate?

- A boat or fishing trip, picnics or pool parties
- Dinners at your home or restaurant
- Cottages - for a week, a weekend or to be your guest.
- Golf games, bowling, movie tickets or other fun
- Computer or other tech help, lessons
- Crafts, baked items, art work for the silent auction
- Baby or dog care, yard work and drives to Logan

A bid list and photos will be posted on the bulletin board under the TV screen in the Parish Hall.



GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION

Saturday, March 30
at 6:30 pm
in the Parish Hall

(change of date - please mark your calendar)

Don't miss the fun and festivities. Share your talents. Donate boats, babysitting, baking and bijou. Dessert, coffee and BYOB will start at 6:30 pm and the auction will begin at 7:00 pm. A Silent Auction will be held for Food, art, special gifts and smaller items.

Auction donations are needed now! This is a super fun evening. We invite you to bring a close friend to the auction if you like. Extra bidders make for more fun, but it is not open to the general public. Absentee bids are accepted. Child care will be available, provided by Maebon Puleio and Jonah



VALENTINE'S DANCE

Come one, come all! Dance with us! We will have an All-Church Dance on **Saturday, February 23** starting at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. So hold the date and plan to come.

We will supply music via an iPhone. Bring your play list. We will have pizza, dessert and snacks and our Birthday Circle. If you can bring dessert or snacks, let Peg Kitchenham know or just bring them with you.





HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

“One finger cannot
lift a pebble.”
Hopi Indian proverb

Together, our hands can lift many pebbles and work toward our vision of the world we wish to see. This is the charge to our Helen Fogg Service Committee, and we invite everyone to join us as members of the committee or on one of the projects we sponsor.

“It’s Criminal” On January 2, nearly 40 people attended the showing of this powerful documentary in our Parish Hall. The US has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Why? Can those of us who have never been imprisoned connect in a personal way with people inside the walls of our prison system? In “It’s Criminal,” young Dartmouth College students look for that answer as they join with women inmates to create a play. In the process, lives on both sides of the prison walls are changed. If you didn’t attend the showing on the 27, you can still view the film. We now own the DVD and will be glad to lend it to individuals or community groups. To borrow the DVD, please contact Scott Babcock at 781-659-2956 or scart41@aol.com. Prison reform has become a national issue, one our congregation has been involved in for many years through our participation in the Partakers College Behind Bars program and the Mass. Bail Fund. We always welcome new volunteers in both of these programs.

Come to our next Community Dinner on **Wednesday, February 13** from 5:00 to 6:20 pm. We served nearly 90 people at our January Community Dinner! Come as a guest and sit with the some of the many people from outside our congregation, or volunteer to cook, set up, serve or clean up as well as enjoy the delicious meal we always provide. There is no charge, and no reservations are needed. Good food, beautiful tables, fresh flowers, good conversation – a nice evening

out –all ages welcome – bring your family and friends.

Bottle and can return project – an ecology project – let’s keep returnables out of our landfills – Les Taylor makes it easy for each of us. Bring all of your returnable bottles and cans to the middle shed and Les will turn them in for you. All money goes to the Service Committee to invest in more projects.

Friendship Home – On **Sunday, February 10**, our Outreach Sunday offering will go to Friendship Home. Each month our Sunday collection goes to a non-profit group selected by the Service Committee. From our committee budget, we add to the collection each month. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to send at least \$1,000 to each of our Outreach Sunday organizations this year: our Partner Church in Romania (September), UUBlack Lives (October), Operation Sanctuary (veterans with PTSD in November), DCF (children in Foster Care in December), and Partakers College Program (January).

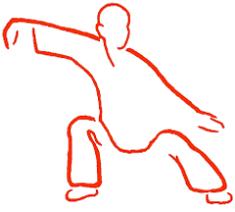


STAY COZY INSIDE WITH A GOOD BOOK!

Tracey Kelly,
librarian at the

James Library, always suggests excellent books for our reading pleasure. She’ll give her recommendations at a book review on **Wednesday, February 20** at 10 am in the Fogg Parlor. Alliance members will provide light refreshments before the review and hope you’ll be able to attend.





TAI CHI

Our Tai Chi classes continue on Tuesday mornings at 9:15 in the Parish Hall. Drop in and enjoy the benefits of this ancient movement exercise. Great for your balance, gentle stretching, and overall better health. This session, which began in January, will continue to March 12. Contact Sue Robinson at artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840 for further details.

deepest thanks to the generous donors this holiday season. We are all so thankful for your kindness. You brightened the lives of so many during the holiday season."

I also received a phone call from the social worker who coordinates the holiday gift project for the department. She asked me to thank our parishioners for the amazing job they do every year. The social workers love distributing these personalized and generous gift bags to children they care about and work with throughout the year.

~Betsy Gordon



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, March 6: "Great Small Things" by Jodi Picoult

Wednesday, April 3: "Brave Companions" by David McCullough

Discussions are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. All book lovers are welcome!



RETURNS FOR PLANET EARTH

We have surpassed \$100 worth of "returnables" collected for our Helen Fogg Service Committee with this campaign. Thank you!

Please keep collecting empty bottles and cans (which includes *carbonated soft drink, beer, malt beverage, and sparkling water* bottles, plus any & all *aluminum cans*). Just look for the CRV marking, which includes our state initials of "MA" plus the "5¢" value. Please no plastic bottles of regular/flat water (like Poland Springs)...those can go in your regular recycling bin at home.

Please bring your returnables to church anytime before Earth Day on April 2. The middle carriage shed bay in the south church parking lot is marked and makes for an easy drop-off at your convenience.

For those with a hardship, once you have collected a large quantity of returnable items, a 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!



I wanted to share with all of you who donated money and/or gifts for foster children this past Christmas the feedback I have received from social workers at the MA

Department of Children and Families. The social workers who received the holiday gift bags for their assigned foster children sent a handwritten note to First Parish Church that read as follows:

"Thank you for donating gifts to the children of the families that we work with. They are so grateful for your generosity. God bless you". The Family Resource Unit social workers also sent a note in thanks for the many gift cards for food and clothing that we purchased with Sunday collection for foster children. *"We would like to express our*



COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers to fill the following committee vacancies which are open for the 2019-2020 church year:

- Parish Committee (2 vacancies, 3 year term) - to be eligible to serve on the Parish Committee one must have been a church member for at least three years and have served on a standing or elected committee.
- Denominational Affairs Committee (3 vacancies, 1 year term)
- Invested Funds Committee (1 vacancy, 4 year term)

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Bernie Gardner, Les Taylor, Mary Nickerson, Chris Kitchenham and Elizabeth Robey



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

To learn more about any of the events at the James, please contact them directly at 781-659-7100 or visit www.jameslibrary.org.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Join the UU Christian Fellowship for Revival at First Unitarian Church of Worcester **Friday and Saturday, March 15-16**. Speakers include the author Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, the Rev. Laura Everett (Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches) and the Rev. Jose Encarnacion (President of Worcester Interfaith). Plus, fellowship and worship with wonderful colleagues and laypeople. Register

here: <http://uuchristian.org/revival2019/>. I hope to see you there!

Habitat for Humanity is having an Interfaith Build Day on **Saturday, March 16**. If you are interested in participating please take the online training as instructed below and register for the Interfaith Build Day. If you have questions, or would like to carpool to the site, please talk with Rev. Lise.

Location: Feinberg Bog Road Duxbury, MA 02332 (if using GPS - enter 934 Temple Street) Instructions are below for the national Volunteer Training Video that **MUST BE VIEWED** by all volunteers prior to arriving at the build site for insurance purposes. Please be sure that it is viewed in its entirety. Some things outlined in the video are based on national assumptions; see below for South Shore Habitat specific information.

Start by clicking on the following link <http://www.hfhvolunteerinsurance.com>

1. Click on the blue box labeled “Begin Now” under “Online Safety Training Course to read course instructions and obtain your access code.
2. Click on the blue box labeled “Take Training Course Now,” enter your access code, and click submit.
3. Under “Recommended Courses”, click on “Volunteering on a Habitat for Humanity Job Site.”
4. Watch the 19 minute training video in its entirety.
5. Take the quiz at the end of the training video.

Here is the link to register for the Interfaith Build. <http://vhub.at/interfaithbuildDux>.



First Parish of Norwell's Goods and Services Auction

Saturday, March 30

Don't miss the fun and festivities. Share your talents. Donate boats, babysitting, baking and bijoux.

Dessert, coffee and BYOB at 6:30 pm and the auction begins at 7:00 pm

Childcare (upstairs) available 6:30-9:00ish, provided by Maebon Puleio and Jonah Handleman. Come in your PJ's and bring a cuddly friend!

A Silent Auction will be held for Food, art, special gifts and smaller items. To donate, please fill out the form below.

Advance bids may be placed if you will not be present at the auction. See Deanna Riley or email her at drileymar@verizon.net.

Service Auction Donation Form

Item: _____

Estimated Value \$ _____ Minimum Bid ? \$ _____

Willing to Repeat? Yes No If yes, # of times _____

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Email: _____

Thank you so very much!! Please come join the fun.

FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			6 Alliance Board, FP 10 am Book Group, FP 7 pm Dancers, PH 7-8 pm	7 Dancers, PH 7-9 pm Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	8 	9 Scrapbookers, PH 4-11 pm
			10 OUTREACH SUNDAY Morning Svc. & Church School 10 am Coffee Hr., PH 11 am Youth Group Chocolate Sale, PH 11 am Partakers, FP 11:30 am Service Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am Youth Group, PH & Kit. 5-7 pm	11 AA, PH 8:30 pm	12 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Crafters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm	13 iSpi deadline, 9 am Community Dinner, PH 5 pm  Caregivers' Support Grp., Sky. 6:30 pm Dancers, PH 7-8 pm
17 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Budget Setting Mtg., FP 11:30 am Nominating Comm., Sky. 11:30 am Private Rental, Sky. 12-5 pm	18 AA, PH 8:30 pm	19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Crafters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm	20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED iSpi deadline 9 am Alliance Book Review, FP 10 am Dancers, PH 7-8 pm	21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	22 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Trumpet Lessons (JM), Sky. 3-7 pm	23 Valentine's Dance, PH 5:30 pm 
24 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am CHALICE-LGBTQ+ Movie/Discussion, PH 2-4 pm	25 AA, PH 8:30 pm	26 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Crafters, FP 9:30 am Parish Comm., FP 6:30 pm Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm	27 iSpi deadline 9 am Dancers, PH 7-8 pm	28 Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	1 Trumpet Lessons (JM), PH 3-7 pm	2