

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

April 3, 2019
Volume XVII, Issue 8

Sunday Services - 10 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless indicated otherwise

April 7: **Earth Day Sunday**

It's our annual multigenerational Sunday of caring for and celebrating our earth. It's also an **Outreach Sunday**.

April 14: **Are We A Free People?**

Passover begins Friday, April 19. We'll consider the ancient story of God's protection and Moses' leadership of the Jewish people to freedom. Are there ways that this story can inspire us today? For those who are interested, we'll have our annual communion service after our main worship.

April 21: **Easter and the Coming of Persephone**

Persephone is known as the Greek Goddess of spring, and she's also the Queen of the Underworld. As we celebrate the light and goodness of the world, is it also important to consider the darkness?

April 28: **Helen Fogg** Elizabeth Robinson, Worship Leader

Helen Fogg is one of our 20th century church mothers. Elizabeth will share some history and inspirations from her life.

The Church Office will be closed during school vacation week, April 16-19. It will reopen at 9 am on **Tuesday, April 23.**



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:

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, May 6**. Submissions should be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org.



LISE'S LETTER

The last few days have been lovely, haven't they? I was out doing a little gardening as I imagine many of you were as well. While sticking my hands in the earth, it occurred to me that the work with our consultants (ESC—Empower Success Corps) that we're just beginning is like gardening, too. We'll be examining our soil (history, traditions, current thoughts), planning for a crop (What vegetables and flowers do we want to grow? Maybe more outreach, diversity in membership, a simplified structure, etc.?) and then seeing what we need to do to make the plans for our crop come true.

In light of our work with ESC and our recent stewardship drive, I wanted to share the results of the hearts and leaves from our Commitment Service on March 10. If you weren't there, or don't remember, during the service I asked you to write the things you loved about FPNUU on little hearts—these represented our past commitments to our wonderful religious community. I also asked you to write future dreams for our community on green leaves—the things we want to commit to and grow at FPNUU. Below is a sampling of what was written. For the complete list you can go to this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/110LXF5csXP_E1Ycyp-WvT42E_85Oy_5ml-lefR30MX8/edit and I'll also put some hard copies out on the Welcome Table outside the Parish Hall.

Hearts: past commitments – things we love at FPNUU

- The people—the sense of community—people who have my values; the music; the ability to question—to be with others who question
- I Love FPN; meaningful worship; spiritual home; friendships; community; music; caring; committees; fun; ministry; leadership



- I love our community dinners! I love how we spread our caring outward.
- I love the consistency, the fellowship, the giving spirit and values, the inspirational philosophy of UU ideals, the stoic and permanent nature of this building, the refuge and reliability, the hope
- The religious education program and watching our children grow
- Community support; learning to be in community and love in spite of differences; the children, their joy in being together—their kindness, the moments that make me laugh—the tutus and leggings and rush to the coffee table
- Christmas support of foster children; knitting; movies and discussion; tai chi; discussions; adult ed courses; watching the youth together
- Diversity of ages of members; creativity of active membership and dedication

Leaves: future dreams – things to which we commit at FPNUU

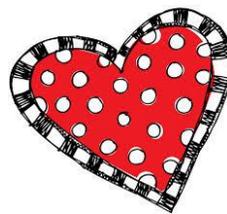
- Find ways to make the world a better place for all... especially those who need a hand up
- Community action leading to awareness of this church and increased membership
- Dreams: avoiding burn-out; more commitment from congregation; more members; small group ministries; continued fun and friendships; more congregation participation in choir and other committees and activities; continued meaningful worship!
- Bring in guest speakers at church services; different topics perspectives add to interest
- More adult ed opportunities
- More diverse congregation; new ideas; promoting political and social change; a return to love...
- A welcoming, comfortable youth group space; more young families; Sunday

services giving us always inspiration—a nugget to take home with us.

- More risk-taking – experiment with different ways to do things, while honoring our values

Thank you for celebrating what makes FPNUU such a wonderful place, *and* having the courage and dedication for growth and change. Enjoy the spring!

Blessings,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

The memorial service for Louise Newcombe will take place here at First Parish on **Saturday, April 6** at 11 am.

A collation will follow. Linda Goodwin (lgbythec@gmail.com) is coordinating the collation. She is looking for volunteers for set-up/cleanup, as well as serving coffee and tea during the gathering.

Phyllis Cohen will be remembered at a memorial service on **Saturday, May 4** at 11 am in the Meetinghouse. Peg Kitchenham (chrispegk@verizon.net) is coordinating the arrangements for the collation afterwards. If you can help set up/cleanup, provide food or serve food during the collation, please let her know.

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)





NOTE FROM THE DRE

“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 the world. You’re doing things you’ve never done before, and more importantly, you’re doing something.” ~Neil Gaiman

Do you know what question I have been asked the most since moving into the DRE office upstairs? You would THINK it would be “Why all the piles?” or “You’re still here?” but it isn’t. What I get asked most is “Why do you have so many pencils?” True! If you haven’t been in my office, I have a mason jar with plenty of sharpened pencils on my desk.

I have an answer to this. Years ago, I preferred pencils to pens for nothing more than they seemed they would take up less space in landfills. It was oddly environmental in my mind. But now, it’s that pencils (stick with me here) give me permission to make mistakes and to start over. Erase away. Rethink, rewrite and re-sharpen when I need to! Don’t waste time striving for perfection: Pencils forgive. Why so many pencils on my desk? So I can share. I’d never notice if several were rehomed. Feel free to borrow should you ever need one! My kids may have said to me on more than one school supply shopping day, “Do you REALLY need more Ticonderoga pencils just because they’re on sale?” (Yes. Yes I do.)

I make mistakes all the time. It’s what we do because we are human. One of the best lessons we can teach our children is that it’s okay to do so. Striving for, or expecting, perfection can be a lonely and complicated road.

Pencils aside, we are heading in to the final eleven weeks of the church year. Keep an eye on the weekend previews I send out for

information about what’s coming up. I’m starting to think about RE classes and am working with RE committee on how to best group the children for our exploration of World Religions next year. Our 7-8th graders will be doing Neighboring Faiths and Coming of Age. This is probably my favorite theme in the 3-year rotation so I’m getting excited. We will have lots of opportunities for teaching as there will be three classes plus childcare. We also will need Youth Group mentors as we figure out how to best support our middle and high schoolers here at FPNUU and within our Sci-Coh-Rock-Well group. Should you wish to join in, please talk to anyone in RE (Debb W., Emily G., Staci C., or Amanda A.) or look for me... I’ll be the one with pencil tucked behind her ear.

Gabe Millins



SHOUT OUT FROM THE PARISH COMMITTEE



[Ahem.] Trumpet fanfare, please... Our April shout out goes to our musician and friend, John McCann! John, you make our Sundays a more magical place when you play trumpet. There’s a “turn around in your pew to watch” quotient that happens when we hear your first notes. “John McCann on trumpet” went above asking bid at our recent auction. Your smiling face and gentle demeanor brings a sense of peace to the morning as well and your energy behind the scenes at our community dinners is yet another contribution you make to our collective church life. Thank you for all you do to stir our souls and enrich the service. You are appreciated for what you do to make FPNUU a richer place! We thank you.



LGBTQ+ YOUTH DANCE

FPNUU is hosting its 3rd Annual LGBTQ+ Youth Dance this **Saturday, April 6**. We are very excited to provide a fun, safe place

for our youth to gather. The dance is from 7:30 to 11 pm. We still need one or two more adult chaperones for this event. If interested, please call Mary Nickerson at 617-877-7464.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR FIRST PARISH OF NORWELL

The process for FPN to prepare a strategic plan to guide our future efforts was launched on March 12 at a kickoff meeting held in the Fogg Parlor. Consultants from Empower Success Corps (ESC) and members of the FPN's Strategic Planning Committee participated in the meeting which resulted in agreement on a work plan to produce the best results for FPN. The ESC team includes Sandy Batchelder (lawyer), Peg Holda (communications specialist) and David Ames (minister). The members of the Strategic Planning Committee are: Marie Miller and Sally Turner (Co-Chairs), Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Dave Traggorth, Dave Hockman, Gabrielle Millins, Susan Sulc, Tommie Magazu, and Alan Prouty.

The ESC Team will engage church members in the preparation of the strategic plan to insure that the plan reflects our common beliefs and values. At the kickoff meeting it was agreed that the work plan to prepare the strategic plan will be carried out in three stages as follows:

Phase One - Environment Analysis: The ESC team will review the current FPN mission, programs, governance, financial situation, physical resources and operations. Additional information will be gathered via interviews, surveys and group meetings. Analysis of

information gained through this process will be used to answer two key questions: "Where are we now?" and "Where do we want to go to achieve our mission?"

Phase Two - Vision and Goals: The ESC team will facilitate a series of discussions to prepare an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). This will be used to identify key issues facing FPN, to review the Mission, Vision and Values of FPN and to set three to five goals ("Guiding Lights") to be achieved by FPN. It is expected that a retreat will be held to support completion of this agenda.

Phase Three - Strategies and Implementation: The ESC team will assist the Strategic Planning Committee to draft strategies and timelines to achieve each of the selected goals. Working groups comprised of Parish Committee Members, church staff, community volunteers and consultants will then elaborate on the strategy and action plan for each goal, specifying requirements for allocation of human and financial resources while specifying a realistic implementation schedule. Measurements and indicators of success for each goal will be specified. This work will then be consolidated to become the draft Strategic Plan as well as an Action Plan for presentation to the Parish Committee for review and submission to the entire FPN community.

It is anticipated that the ESC Team will provide assistance to FPN for the three phases of the planning process during six to eight months. The outputs of their engagement with FPN will be: an Environmental Analysis Report; a Report on the SWOT Analysis; a Mission, Vision and Values Statement; a three to five year Strategic Plan; and an Action Plan. All outputs will be prepared through a participatory process. It is hoped that parishioners will contribute to the success of this work through their active participation in interviews, discussions and Cottage meetings.



EASTER BREAKFAST

Bring your whole family for a super breakfast served before church **Easter morning, April 21**, from 8:45 to 9:50 am. The cost is \$3.00 per adult/\$2.00 per child and a max of \$10 per family but don't ever let cost stop you from joining us.

Help is needed! We will supply a recipe for a ham and egg or vegetable casserole (and a 1/2 size pan) which you bake at home and bring in by 8:30 am. Or, you can make or buy a coffee cake. We also need servers and people to clean up. We will set up Saturday morning (April 20) at 10 am. To volunteer to help in any way contact Peg Kitchenham (781-447-5831 or chrispegk@verizon.net), or see her in person at Coffee Hour.



GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to all who donated and purchased items for the Goods and Services Auction. We had a wonderful evening! Between Deanna Riley's expert auctioneering and Jonah and Maebon's child care, we raised \$3600 for the church budget and \$300 for the Community Dinners. Thank you to Bernie Perry who won the 50/50 Raffle and donated his share back to the Community Dinners.

A list of who purchased items will be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall under the TV next Sunday.

A list of unsold donations is listed below and can be purchased by emailing Peg Kitchenham at chrispegk@verizon.net.

- A sermon of your choice, Rev. Lise - Min. \$25
- Solid pine desk Min. \$75 and Shelving Min. \$40 by Dexter Robinson

- "Sunlit Transformation" framed, 13"x 17" goache by Karen Baker, Min. \$75
- 3 hours of in-home babysitting by Jonah Handleman - Min. \$15
- And the same by Maebon Puleio
- 2 - One hour sessions of Physics tutoring by Clayton Handleman Min. \$50
- Wright Piano Aerosonic by Baldwin - from the Handlemans Min. \$50
- Jayne Shelly Pierce (local) Oil, "Over Barrel and Thru Woods" by Deanna Riley, Min. \$75



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 (3 year term)
- Nominating Committee (3 year term)
- Denominational Affairs Committee* (1 year term)

** Please note that there is ONE spot left on the DA Committee which is being offered to an FPN member who would like to represent our church at General Assembly in June 2020, to be held in Providence, RI.*

If you are interested in learning about and possibly 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](#).



"I know of no other endeavor where a man can be successful 3 times out of 10 and still be considered somewhat proficient."

~Ted Williams on baseball



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

“What you do makes a difference - you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” ~ Jane Goodall

Thank you to the Worship Committee for the wonderful church service on some of the many ways our members volunteer outside the church. Maintaining hiking trails, mentoring young women aging out of the foster care system, sitting with patients and families in hospice care, volunteering at the Council on Aging and the James Library, working for Habitat for Humanity and repairing furniture for sale at – we DO each make a difference in many ways.

Our Helen Fogg Service Committee looks for ways we, as a church community can make a positive difference, working toward the world we wish to see. We invite you to join us in supporting these three programs in April:

1. **Saturday, April 6** - LGBTQ+ Youth Dance in our Parish Hall. For more information, please see the article on [page 5](#).

2. **Wednesday, April 10** – free Community Dinner - 5:00 - 6:20 pm in our Parish Hall. This month’s menu: ham, mac and cheese, salad and chocolate éclair cake.

How can you help?

- Join the set up crew at 9:30 Wednesday morning (contact Marcia Babcock)
- Sign up to bring ham, macaroni and cheese, or the dessert (contact Betsey Drollett)
- Help serve or clean up (contact Jack Wallace)
- Come to the dinner – bring your family and friends or sit with some of our guests from the wider community and enjoy the meal. We usually serve 60-90 people. Adults and children welcome!

3. **RECYCLE BOTTLES and CANS** – this program ends April 20. For more information, please see the article on [page 8](#).

Future plans:

- A Saturday workday at a Habitat for Humanity house, probably in May. Contact Joanne or Deane Howard if you are interested in working on the Habitat house (adults or young people 16 or older). Volunteers may also be needed to prepare lunch for the workers.
- Add new members to the Service Committee. New members bring new ideas, new enthusiasm. **WE NEED YOU!** Please consider joining the committee. This is a perfect time to join – in time for our yearly planning retreat/brunch on **Saturday, May 25**, at the Babcock home. (Contact any member of the committee)

Committee members: Scott and Marcia Babcock, Jack Wallace, Debbie Chase, Bev Gardner, Steve Hurt, Alan and Mai-Britt Prouty, Jeannette Mitchell, Joanne Howard, Patty Crumley, Peter Twomey, Cathie DiMassa and Alex Gordon.



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, May 1: “The Music Shop” by Rachel Joyce (Marcia Babcock enthusiastically recommends the audiobook version!)

Wednesday, June 5: “Shanghai Girls” by Lisa See

FPN’s Book Group meets at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor on the first Wednesday of each month. All are welcome!





RETURNS FOR PLANET EARTH - FINAL MONTH!

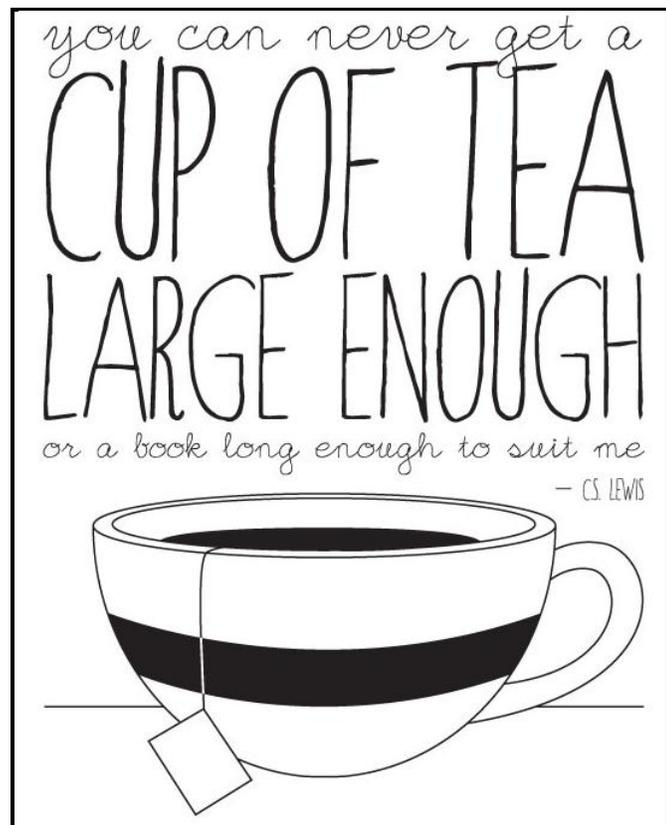
Our church campaign of collecting “returnables” ends on Earth Day, April 22!

What: Carbonated soft drink, beer, malt beverage, and sparkling water bottles AND aluminum cans. Look for the CRV marking, which includes our state initials of “MA” plus the “5¢” value.

Why: All proceeds raised will benefit our Helen Fogg Service Committee.

How: Bring your bottles and cans to FPN’s open middle carriage shed (where signs are posted) in the church’s south “B” parking lot. For those with a hardship, a special pick-up may be arranged.

Questions: Please contact Les Taylor with any questions you have (or to arrange for a collection) at 781-837-2929 or lestaylor@me.com. Thank you!



The Finance Committee thanks you for your support of “In Gratitude We Give”, the 2019-2020 Annual Pledge Drive.

As of April 2, 62 pledges have been received, totalling \$110,835. Pledges have been received from the following members and friends:

Amanda Adams, George and Meredith Atkinson, Scott and Marcia Babcock, Larry and Karen Baker, Laurie Brown and Dan Carroll, Bill and Staci Carey, John and Peg Carpenter, Jean Christensen, Noel Constantino, Patty Crumley, Bob Cullum, Betsey Detwiler, Peter and Roberta Fairbanks, Bernie and Bev Gardner, George and Linda Goodwin, Ralph and Betsy Gordon, Jordan and Emily Grant, Clayton and Ellie Handleman, Cathy Harder-Bernier, Bob and Barbara Hickey, Dave and Joyce Hockman, Deane and Joanne Howard, Steve Hurt, Pearl Jayko, Helen Keeler, Joan Kenworthy, Chris and Peg Kitchenham, Phillip and Diane Koury, Joan Kuhn, John Litchfield, Tommie Magazu, John McCann and Debbie Chase, John and Debi Meddaugh, Mary Mercier, Jon and Mandy Metzger, Jim and Marie Miller, Prue Miller, Jim and Gabe Millins, Jeannette Mitchell, Joan Nahigian, Bob and Carol Neely, Kerry Ouellet, Bernie Perry, Alan Prouty, Harold and Lorna Phillips, Deanna Riley, Thand and Elizabeth Robey, Dexter and Sue Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Paul and Denise Shaw, Greg and Tove Smith, Derek and Jen Sulc, Les and Marlon Taylor, Dave and Julia Traggorth, Crista Trapp, David and Sally Turner, Peter and Linda Twomey, Paul and Netta Vercollone, Mark and Judy Witcher and George and Donna Wilson



Civil Rights Tour Talk, **Sunday, April 7** at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. A few years ago, Rev. Lise participated in a week long civil rights tour in the Deep South with the UU Living Legacy Pilgrimage Group. Come learn about or be reminded of the important history that happened in the 1960's, the outcomes of which we are still living into. This talk will also kick-off an additional six week series called "Conversations About Race". These will take place **Sunday, April 14 - Sunday, May 19** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor.

"In Plain Sight" by Photographers Sue Scavo Gallagher and Janis Owens
Opening Reception: **Friday, April 19** from 6 to 8 pm
On view through May 15
Admission is free, donations appreciated.



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Spring Juried Show

Juried by Beth Urdang of

Beth Urdang Gallery, Boston and Wellesley, MA

Exhibition dates: On view through April 12

Weekend Classics Encore:

Pianist Eleanor Perrone

Sunday, April 7 at 3 pm

Admission is free, donations appreciated

Please reserve your seats by emailing

jameslibrary@verizon.net.

Mondays at the James:

Maine Appalachian Trail 100-Mile Wilderness

Presented by Dexter Robinson

Monday, April 8 at 7 pm

Reservations recommended at 781-659-7100

or jameslibrary@verizon.net.

Story Slam:

"I Can't Believe I ..." with Host Andrea Lovett

Friday, April 12 at 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$20 General Admission, \$10 Students

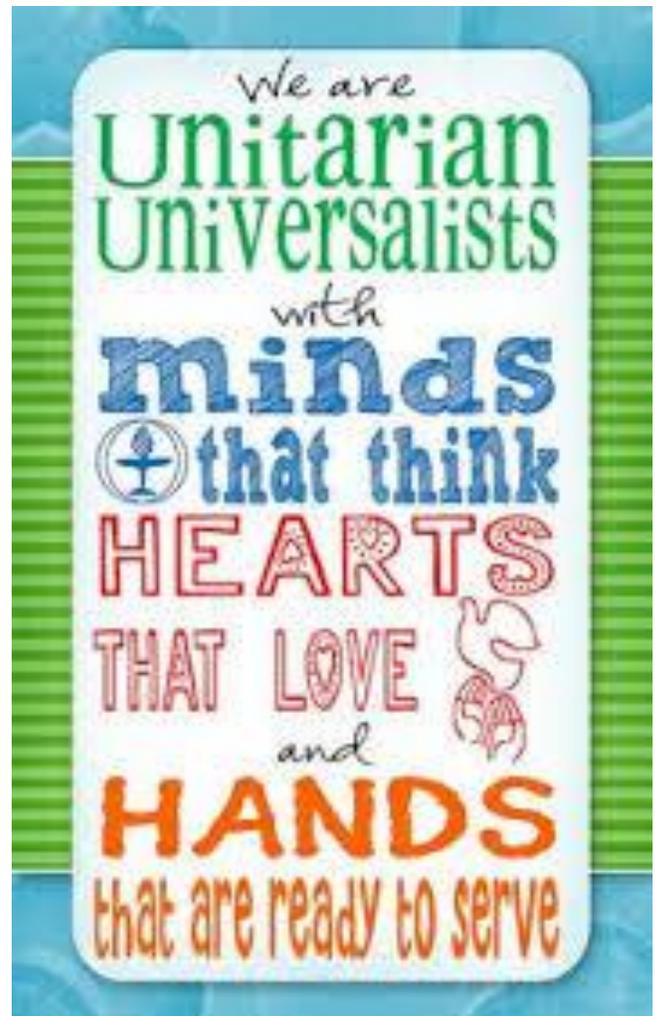
A limited number of free senior tickets are

available, courtesy of the Cordelia Family

Foundation by phone reservation at 781-659-

7100.

Art Gallery Exhibition



APRIL 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>3</p> <p>Alliance Board, FP 10 am</p> <p>Book Group, FP 7 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7-8 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7-9 pm</p> <p>Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Collation Set-up, PH</p> <p>Private rental, MH 3-7 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Memorial Service & Collation for Louise Newcombe, MH & PH 11 am</p> 
<p>7</p> <p>OUTREACH SUNDAY</p> <p>Morning Svc. & Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour, PF 11 am</p> <p>Activities Comm., Sky.</p> <p>Service Comm., FP 11:30 am</p> <p>Finance Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am</p> <p>Civil Rights Tour Talk, PH 7 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am</p> <p>Crafters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Boston Red Sox Home Opener vs Toronto Blue Jays, 2:05 pm</p>  <p>Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>iSpi deadline 9 am</p> <p>Community Dinner, PH 5 pm</p>  <p>Caregivers' Support Grp., Sky. 6:30 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7-8 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Dancers, PH - 7-9 pm</p> <p>Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Private rental, MH 3-7 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Private Rental, PH 8 am-10 pm</p>
<p>14</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>Morning Service & Church School 10 am</p> <p>Communion Svc., MH 11 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour, PF 11 am</p> <p>Convo. About Race, FP 7 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PATRIOTS DAY</p> <p>AA, PH 8:30 pm</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am</p> <p>Crafters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>iSpi deadline 9 am</p> <p>Alliance, 10 am @ Prue Miller's</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7-8 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Private rental, MH 3-7 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Easter Breakfast Set-up, PH 10 am</p>
<p>21</p> <p>EASTER</p> <p>Easter Breakfast, PH 8:30 am</p> <p>Morning Service & Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour, PH 11 am</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>EARTH DAY</p>  <p>AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am</p> <p>Crafters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Parish Comm., FP 6:30 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>iSpi deadline 9 am</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7-8 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Staff Meeting, Ofc., 10:30 am</p> <p>Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Private rental, MH 3-7 pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Private Rental, PH 11 am-11 pm</p>