

www.fpcberlin.org  
September 2017



# The Record

Newsletter

First Parish Church in Berlin

*A federated church, gathered 1779*

United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
24 Central St. Berlin, Massachusetts 01503

Friday,  
Sept. 8  
Pizza Nite  
returns!  
5-7 pm  
Meeting House  
Eat-in or take-out



## From the Minister

I'm looking forward to the start of this church year. It is going to be exciting to continue our transition/visioning work and for the Search Committee to do it's work to find a new settled minister. Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers the possibility that this time in 2018, you will have a new minister starting their ministry with you. Until then, there is a lot that we can do to prepare for this.

We can continue to explore your vision for where the church might go, where it might be in another year in terms of membership, programs, and ways of doing church. Once again, I'll say that your participation, each of you, will determine the success of this exploration.

You may have traveled far, or not this summer but each of you has been away at some point during the summer. If you have some water from your travels, do bring a little of it to the service on Sept. 10. We'll share our stories of what we've done and celebrate our coming back together in a water communion.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, I'll share some thoughts about the nature of relationship between a congregation and its minister. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll think about the purpose of a church for you personally, in Berlin and beyond. How does First Parish affect the lives of others outside the church?

I can't wait to see you all on the 10<sup>th</sup>. See you in church!

Blessings,  
*Frieda*

Sunday, Sept. 10  
Homecoming and Water  
Communion  
10 am Meeting House  
Bring some water from your  
summer....



Sunday School Begins!  
10 am

Summer should  
get a speeding  
ticket.

## September Worship

Sept 10 - Water Communion/Homecoming Let's gather as community to start the new church year together. Bring water if you like to share from your travels or from home..

Sept 17 - Finding the Perfect Minister - Rev. Frieda Is this possible? And, is it desirable? What should you look for in a minister?

Sept 24 - Churches that serve. - Rev. Frieda How can we describe the purpose of our church? What fulfills that purpose?

## Sunday School Start-Up

Dear Families!

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Sunday School year at First Parish Church. We are looking forward to an exciting year with your children! There are many fun activities and lessons planned.

You as parents and caregivers are the most important people in the faith life of your child!!

Sunday School starts on Sunday, September 10. Our Sunday service begins at 10am, and the children will be "sung out" to our adorable Children's Church where they will be enjoying worship and education.

Blessings,

Dawn Galli Director of Religious Education

[Dawnmgalli@aol.com](mailto:Dawnmgalli@aol.com)



## Shop SERRV, and Serve the Friendship Village Fair Shoppe

Assist the Outreach Team of First Parish Church as they prepare for their annual SERRV sale at the Friendship Village Fair Shoppe on Saturday, November 4. Items you purchase will be displayed at the annual church fair to showcase some of the beautiful handcrafted items made by artisans and farmers in 30 countries around the world using vibrant craft techniques and traditions. Skills are passed down to younger generations, preserving cultural identities and sustaining communities.



Catalogs will be available during Fellowship Coffee Hour beginning Homecoming Sunday, September 10 through Sunday, October 8. Your orders will be placed the following week, and the items you purchased will be proudly displayed at the fair to entice patrons to place orders of their own. You can contact Liane Leahy ([lianeleahy137@gmail.com](mailto:lianeleahy137@gmail.com) or 978-567-0883) with any questions.

SERRV (**S**ales **E**xchange for **R**efugee **R**ehabilitation and **V**ocation) was launched in 1949. It began as a program of the Church of the Brethren as a way to help refugees in Europe recover economically and socially from World War II. The program has grown to working with impoverished people throughout the world.

SERRV International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, alternative trading organization operating in the United States, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The organization's mission is to "promote the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manner."



**DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?** If you do, I surely hope you shop through the Amazon Smile site.

What's that, you ask? Same Amazon service, same Amazon products (same Amazon Prime, if that applies to you...) BUT you get to choose a charity to support through your shopping. No cost to you, and Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase price to your charity. Simple! Sign up and start giving.



## Search Team Starts Up

The Search Team got started with a two-night retreat with Toby Smith Ropeik, UUA Regional Transitions Coach to learn about the search process and to select roles for Team members. The first evening was hosted by Wendy Rogalinski with the Team engaging in exercises to help determine the strengths each member brings to the Team. In addition, the Team learned what the search process entails and what our questions/expectations/ goals were.

The following evening Thomas Andrew hosted the retreat, and the Team got down to business learning about the different roles needed throughout the search process and selecting Team members to fill those roles. Roles include chair, treasurer, clerk, communications, candidating week coordinator, congregational record, web packet, negotiating committee, and several more. Being a Team of six, it is necessary for each member to fill multiple roles.

The Search Team seeks to ascertain support from both denominations in this process, and to that end will meet with Rev. Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister, Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ on September 20 to see how the process may differ from the UUA and what support the UCC offers churches in a ministerial search.

Look to the Fall for a sermon from Toby Smith Ropeik, a whole-church workshop, and small



congregant gatherings in an effort to involve the congregation in the process; seeking input as to areas you feel FPC is lacking, the church's strengths, and your dreams for FPC's future.

The Search Team is excited to represent First Parish Church in this important endeavor and wishes to thank Toby for her guidance, and Wendy and Thomas for hosting (and feeding) the Team during the retreat.

Thomas Andrew, Barry Eager  
Audrey McNickol, , Liane Leahy, Jean Valchuis, Wendy Rogalinski



**Choir practice resumes Thursday, September 7, 7:30 – 9:30 pm in the Meeting House. All voices are truly welcome!**

### Season of Creation

Friday, September 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM through September 04, 2017

During the "Season of Creation", from September 1 through October 4, Christians across denominations and around the world are invited to pray and care for creation.

Find out more by going to the United Church of Christ's website, [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) and search for "justice events."





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 Minster's Office Hours  
 Tues, Thurs 10 - 2  
 or by appointment.  
 Administrator's hours  
 are flexible, so please  
 call ahead. 978-838-  
 2575

## First Parish Pizza Returns On Sept. 8

Celebrate the end of summer with wonderful food! Come to the Meeting House 5 – 7 pm for the pizza buffet, or order take out 14" handmade rounds. Call 978-838-2964 after 2 pm Friday to place your order.



- Cheese
- Traditional Veggie (onion, peppers, broccoli, mushrooms)
- Pepperoni
- Special this month: Chicken BBQ with caramelized onion
- Special this month: End-of-Summer Veggie Wonder (corn, spinach, onion, fresh tomato, basil)

**Sunday School &  
 Sunday worship @  
 10 a.m. childcare**



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*always find time for the  
 things that make you  
 feel happy to be alive.*

Rev. Frieda Gillespie, minister    Darlene Walsh, secretary  
 Robert Specian, choir director    Robert Cunningham, pianist  
 Dawn Galli, religious education director