



# 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

## Friendship Village Fair



Shoppe  
Saturday, Nov. 4 8 – 2  
Parish Hall  
Breakfast sandwiches,  
lunch court, handmade  
goods, Yard Sale

Sunday, Nov. 5 11 - 2

Friday, Nov. 10 5 – 7 pm

Meeting House  
Pizza Night  
Eat in or take  
out



Sunday, Nov. 19 10 am  
Meeting House

Toby Ropeik, UUA  
ministerial settlement  
advisor to FPC will be  
preaching



Tuesday, Nov.  
21 7 pm  
Meeting House  
Thanksgiving  
service of hymns  
and readings



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVINGS  
ENDS  
2 AM  
SUNDAY,  
NOV. 5**

## From the Minister

We are entering the darkening of the days and there is a great desire to make the best of the daylight we have. This can be a very intense time of change and some of you are experiencing this at the church as the Council struggles with staffing issues. These are important times of learning and maturational growth for the church. Even though it can be painful and frustrating, it is a necessary part of moving forward in a positive way. To review the five tasks of interim ministry, of our shared ministry at FP:

1. claiming and honoring your past and engaging and acknowledging your griefs and conflicts
2. recognizing your unique identity and your strengths, needs, and challenges
3. understanding the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition
4. making appropriate use of Regional, UUA, UCC and other outside resources, and
5. renewing your vision, strengthening your stewardship, preparing for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.

You are making progress with all of these in various ways, especially 2, 3, and 4.

This month our worship services will tackle the important and currently relevant issue of sexual harassment: my sermon on Nov 5 is called "Me Too". The sermon will include stories that have some crude language that I normally never include in a worship service. This issue is so vital for our society and therefore for our religious life, that I believe it must be tackled openly and directly without any innuendo or oblique references. Also, since women have for decades had to tolerate behavior and language that is plainly ugly, we can at least acknowledge it in solidarity. These are stories of strength and resilience in both women and men.

Continued on page 2

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

--Albert Camus

## Letter from Rev. Frieda continued from page 1

The Stewardship Campaign is starting this month and I will be preaching about giving in a sermon called, "Creating Your Future Church" on Nov 12. How much you give is not a function of how much money you have, but how much depth you bring to your commitment at First Parish.

On Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, Toby Ropiek will be the guest preacher. She is the ministerial settlement advisor to FP from the Unitarian Universalist Association working with the Search Committee in their process to find a new settled minister. Ms. Ropiek will be talking with you about that process and answering your questions.

Then on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> I will lead a service I do frequently at this time of year when the holidays overwhelm us even in the midst of joyful celebration. The service is mostly silent giving us all a chance to let go of the stress of the season and return to our center, to the "arms of God", to our very being from which we can listen for the truth, the voice of God. As theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer says, we may not be able to reach God, but we can make ourselves available to be reached by God. It is especially powerful to do this together with others. You may not believe in "God" but certainly can experience your own inner wisdom.

We all have a lot to be thankful for and given the many disasters and problems around the country and the world we have a lot to care about too. May you be in touch with all that you have been given this year.

Blessings,  
Frieda

## Update From the Search Team

As of this writing, the Ministerial Search Team has hosted two Cottage Meetings with members/friends of the church to learn more about what you want from First Parish and its leadership. Three more Cottage Meetings are planned before October comes to an end. Please plan to attend, as your input is vital to our mission!

November will find the Search Team hard at work compiling input from the Cottage Meetings and the questionnaire/survey for completing the Congregational Record to be viewed by ministers who are in search. The purpose of the Congregational Record is to determine congregational strengths, challenges, and continuing issues and to provide the opportunity for "marketing" the position of settled minister of First Parish Church.

On Sunday, November 19, UUA Regional Transitions Coach, Toby Smith Ropeik, will be our guest preacher giving a sermon relating to our move towards a new settled ministry and surfacing questions that can arise. Toby will also be available during Fellowship Coffee Hour for a question/answer session to help the congregation fully understand the process of searching for a settled minister. Please plan to be at worship on November 19.

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

## **Teams, Committees—how's it going?**

Every team should have a chairperson, and a regular meeting time. Please send an email to [clerk@fpcberlin.org](mailto:clerk@fpcberlin.org) with your meeting time....and if you haven't met in a while, schedule a meeting before many more weeks pass! The list of committees and teams is included in this Record.



## Low-Cost Electronics Recycling on Saturday, Nov. 4

The recycling truck will be parked in the Meeting House driveway from 8 am – 3 pm on Saturday, Nov. 4.

This is a great way to RESPONSIBLY dispose of appliances and electronics, which ALSO helps First Parish, as a portion of the fees collected are turned over to FPC..



We recycle most anything with a cord or battery

MAJOR APPLIANCES \$15  
AIR CONDITIONERS \$15  
MICROWAVE OVEN \$10  
TELEVISION (plastic under 27") \$20  
TELEVISION (plastic 27" and above) \$25  
TELEVISION (wood/console) \$35  
PROJECTION TV \$35  
LAPTOP COMPUTER \$10  
COMPUTER (tube monitor) \$20 (flat screen) \$10  
COMPUTER (CPU) \$10  
COMPUTER (printer or scanner) \$5  
COMPUTER (accessory bundle) \$5  
COMPUTER (complete system) \$25  
(with tube monitor) \$30  
FAX MACHINE \$5  
BOOM BOX \$5  
WATER HEATER \$15  
SMALL APPLIANCE \$5  
MISCELLANEOUS GADGETS \$3



Please consider signing up to host coffee hour! Join with a friend or two, and if you need assistance doing this for the first time, please call Joni Bergen (508-380-7168) who will be happy to show you the ropes. Thank you in advance! The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Sawyer Hall (the smaller hall downstairs)

## Happy Fall to all of our *First Parish Sunday School Families!*



The children have been enjoying our second month back at Sunday School! We have been working on learning the Lord's Prayer! The children have also enjoyed working on our Bible Story comprehension and Memory Worksheets. We enjoy working on many crafts and activities to go along with our church themes to make it interesting, and the children become very engaged.



Our November theme will be CHURCH and RESPECT. We have enjoyed listening to spiritual background music during Sunday school which the children seem to love!



We welcome new families to our Sunday School program! ☺ I would also like to wish all of our children and families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Dawn Galli – Director of Religious Education



## November Services

Nov 5. - Rev. Frieda Gillespie, "Me Too". Women have tolerated sexual harassment for years thinking they have to in order to keep their jobs or get the grade they deserve. Often they weren't even believed. Isn't it we stopped accepting this? The Stewardship campaign is kicked off for 2017/2018 as well.

Nov 12 - Rev. Frieda Gillespie, "Creating Your Future Church" - Why do we give and what are we giving for? Lessons from Chartres Cathedral.

Nov 19 - Toby Ropeik - "Top Ten Myths about Your Ministerial Search" - Our guest is UUA Regional Transitions Coach. Here is your chance to learn about the search process and have your questions answered. Not to be missed!

Nov. 21 - Thomas Andrew - "Thanksgiving Lessons and Carols" Join with others on this harvest evening to celebrate the season in words and song. Time TBD.

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Frieda Gillespie - "Pause and Listen" In this service we will take a good amount of time, (I don't want to scare you with how much) to sit together in silence and let go of the rush and bustle of the season, to open ourselves to our connection to something greater within us.

## Note-worthy

This month, 500 years ago, marked the beginning of great changes within the Christian church: Martin Luther, a German priest and professor of moral theology, wrote his "Ninety-five Theses", and presented them to the Archbishop of Mainz in Germany. It has been passed down that he also may have posted the same on the door of Wittenberg's All Saints Church for the public to read. The date for Reformation Day, as this event has become known, is celebrated on October 31st, and it had profound influence on the music sung in Protestant churches from that time forward.

Most of the sacred music used up to that point would have been what we call today "Gregorian chants". There were a few, sacred hymns, but the bulk of the music was the chant, and settings of the parts of the Catholic Mass based on the chant, but adorned by various composers throughout the centuries.

In addition to his being a theologian, Luther was himself a composer, and used hymns to draw people together. Even today we still sing some of the hymns he wrote 500 years ago. Perhaps his best known hymn is "Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott", which we know as "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (#439 & #440 in the black hymnal; #200 & # 303 in the gray hymnal). Hymn singing became a more important part of service music, and replaced the chants still found in many Catholic Churches today. I believe we could say that our musical tradition here at FPC Berlin would be vastly different today if not for the contribution of Martin Luther!

During the month of October we've enjoyed a Handel trio presented by Robyn Tarantino, Serge Paul-Emile and Bob Cunningham, Barry Eager offering a solo on the Columbus Day Weekend, and the men of the choir presenting a new, as yet unpublished, piece by the young composer David von Kampen from Nebraska.

Bob Specian, Choir Director





## Special Thanksgiving Service

Christmas gets verses and carols, angels and wise men and mother, father and babe in the manger, shepherds and sheep! Thanksgiving gets turkey, with lots of vegetables (and sometimes too much in the way of lovely deserts like pumpkin and apple pie). Let us offer a remedy to this situation.

Thanksgiving is one of our unique civic holidays. Join us on Tuesday, November 21, at 7 pm for a service of readings from Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamations and to join in a selection of thanksgiving

hymns. There is no sermon and there is no offering, just an opportunity to give a special offering after the service. This is a time just to listen and to sing, a time to center on giving thanks through word and song. Please join us!

## Old Clapboards, New Paint



Have you noticed? The Children's Church is getting a long-overdue facelift from a tiny group of volunteers. Originally a multi-hued gothic building, the Children's Church was remodeled at the time of the federation to its most recent appearance. We hope to be able to continue the work from the Sunday School entrance across the front of the building to meet the Parish Hall/Thrift Shoppe entrance, which was updated by the same volunteers in 2015. It will be a much more colorful building when the work is completed! We have gratefully received a donation which will allow us to do more work than anticipated, although much more will be needed to complete the exterior.

Please Save the Date: Sunday, December 3...because you love this church

Sunday, December 3, will be a special day for FPC. Led by Rev. Justine Sullivan, we will worship together, eat together, and embark on answering the question of why First Parish matters, and should continue to exist. We will work together to clarify our mission, and our unique calling as a church. All should plan to attend—our future needs your input.



**FIRST PARISH CHURCH'S  
ANNUAL**

# **Friendship Village Fair Shoppe**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 8AM - 2PM**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 11AM - 2PM.**

**RTE. 62, BERLIN CENTER**



Many handcrafted items, baked goods, jams/jellies, jewelry, attic treasures, SERRV items, **YARD SALE**, and more!!!

**BREAKFAST SANDWICHES  
AND LUNCH WILL BE  
OFFERED.**



**MANY HANDS THRIFT  
SHOPPE WILL BE OPEN  
EXTENDED HOURS ON  
SATURDAY**



First Parish Church in Berlin, MA



# 2017 Directory of Officers, Staff, and Teams

4-digit phone numbers are preceded by 978-838-

## Church Staff

<b>Minister:</b>	<i>Rev. Frieda Gillespie</i>	508-207-7566
<b>Administrator:</b>	<i>Darlene Walsh</i>	2525
<b>Choir Director:</b>	<i>Robert Specian</i>	
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Robert Cunningham</i>	
<b>RE Director:</b>	<i>Dawn Galli</i>	
<b>Sextons:</b>	<i>Edith Brewer, Ch</i>	978-838-2876
	<i>Peter Wheeler, MH</i>	508-395-2215
	<i>Steve Bradley, Grounds</i>	978-368-7721

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## Church Council

2018	Barry Eager	UU	
		FPC	9414
	Beezy Bentzen	UCC	2307
2019	Stan Rogalinski	UU	508-400-0202
	Peter Wheeler	FPC	508-395-2215
	Clive Holyoak	UCC	2682
2020		UU	
		FPC	
	Audrey McNickol	UCC	

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## Deacons

Thomas Andrew	2104
Kim Dunkelberg	508-395-1271
Clive Holyoak	2682
Colton Holyoak	2882
Liane Leahy	978-567-0883
John O'Brien	
Janet O'Brien	

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## Trustees

2018	Michael Holyoak	774-633-1314
2019	Robyn Tarantino	978-618-4204
2020	Clive Holyoak	2682
2021	Jean Valchuis	0733
2022		

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## Leadership Development

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## Transition Team/Pastoral Relations

Joni Bergen	2104
Jim McNickol	508-981-5969
Peter Wheeler	508-395-2215

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## Memorial

Connie Barter	2832
June Coolidge	508-845-1340
Judy Duff	2156

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## Historical

Beezy Bentzen	2307
Barry Eager	2502

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## Church Officers

<b>Moderator:</b>	<i>Clive Holyoak</i>	2682
<b>Clerk:</b>	<i>Joni Bergen</i>	2104
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Stan Rogalinski</i>	0155
<b>Collector:</b>	<i>Dick Mills</i>	2272
<b>Auditor:</b>	<i>Judy Booman</i>	2704

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## Religious Education

Beezy Bentzen	2307
Beverley Holyoak	2682
Wendy Rogalinski	0155

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## Property

Joni Bergen	2104
Barry Eager	2502
Jim McNickol	508-981-5969

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## Outreach

Beezy Bentzen	2307
Serge Paul-Emile	2323
Lulu Fite	774-614-1227
Wendy Rogalinski	0155

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## Stewardship

Edith Brewer	2876
Barry Eager	2502

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## Finance

Joni Bergen	2104
Edith Brewer	2876
Barry Eager	2502
Clive Holyoak	2682

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## Music

Thomas Andrew	2104
Beezy Bentzen	2307
Serge Paul-Emile	2323
Jean Valchuis	0733

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## Worship

Thomas Andrew	2104
Beezy Bentzen	2307
Barry Eager	2502
Serge Paul-Emile	2323

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UUA Delegates: Joni Bergen, Barry Eager

UCC Delegates: Beezy Bentzen



24 Central St.  
Berlin, MA 01503  
Office 978.838.2575  
Building Use  
Coordinator Email:  
[secretary@fpcberlin.org](mailto:secretary@fpcberlin.org)  
Minster's Office Hours  
Tues, Thurs 10 - 2  
or by appointment.  
Administrator's hours  
are flexible, so please  
call ahead. 978-838-  
2575

## Nov. 10 is a Great Day for Pizza

xsWonderful pizza in downtown Berlin!  
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
- October Special: Roasted Squash and fresh mozzarella



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



[www.fpcberlin.org](http://www.fpcberlin.org)

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