



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

Harmonie Transverse Flute
Concert

Friday, Dec. 1 8 pm

Meeting
House



Pizza Nite

Friday, Dec. 8

5 – 7 pm

Meeting House
Eat-in or take-
home



Tree Walk
Sunday,
Dec. 17

4:30 pm

Gather at the
Meeting House



Christmas Boxes for Shut-ins

Thursday,
Dec. 21 9:30 am
Meeting House



Christmas Eve
Sunday, Dec. 24
Meeting House
10 am Worship
with carols and
readings

5 pm Family
Candlelight
service



From the Minister

We have entered the season of Advent. The weather has finally caught up with the calendar. And we are anticipating the coming of Christmas and all that it entails. At First Parish, we are beginning the month with another Transition Team event on Dec 3. In addition to our worship service and communion, we will have lunch together and then a workshop to create a mission statement for the church. Why do we need a mission statement you might ask, when you have a covenant that covers all of your values and aspirations? If you were coming to the church for the first time, you might want to know what the church is focused on right now. Rev. Justine Sullivan has done this kind of mission clarification with several local churches along with Joanne Bergen. They are going to lead us in a process that results in a statement of mission that is short and memorable. It should be a very enjoyable time together. We will hold the service, communion, lunch and workshop downstairs to keep it all in one place.

As a church, I know you are looking forward to finding a new settled minister and there will be a lot to do to prepare for that event in the coming months. Let us enjoy the Christmas/Solstice/Hanukkah season that brings us so much hope for peace and understanding. I hope that your holidays are filled with family, good friends, good food, and joy. Remember those less fortunate and reach out to us if you need help. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is money for any of you that could use a little help at any time throughout the year. Don't hesitate, the funds are there, and your request will be held in confidence.

I have enjoyed getting to know you this past year and 4 months and I look forward to celebrating the holidays with you and your family this month. This is a church with a big and open heart with much to share with each other and the larger community.

Blessings to all,

Frieda

You Are Invited

Sunday, Dec. 3—Worship & Luncheon & Workshop

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the special Sunday of exploring First Parish Church's purpose and mission. Please plan to attend.

December Worship

Dec 3rd - Whose Are We? - Rev. Frieda Gillespie and Rev. Justine Sullivan It has been said that the question, "Who are we?" leads to a sense of identity. "Whose are we?" tells us what our mission is. Who are we accountable to, responsible for, covenanted with? Who do we serve? This is a communion Sunday and the first Sunday of Advent.

Worship will be followed by a luncheon. After lunch, we will be led by Rev. Sullivan in a workshop that will further explore our ideas about FPC, and will end in producing a clear mission statement.

Dec. 10th - "What Do You Mean by God? - Rev. Frieda Gillespie We may all use the word God, but do we all mean the same thing? Let's explore some ideas of God to wonder about and clarify our own idea of God.

Dec 17th – 10:00 AM A Christmas Play given by the children and youth of First Parish, led by Dawn Galli, director of religious ed

4:30 Tree Walk and Wassail (page 7)

Dec 24 - 10:00 AM Lessons and Carols - Rev. Frieda Gillespie

5:00 PM Family Candlelight Service

Dec. 31 TBA



Search Team Update—News and Need

The search team would like to thank so many of you who attended a cottage meeting and/or filled out a survey sharing your thoughts about our church and the qualities you would like to see in a new minister. This information has been extremely helpful as we have been completing our congregational profile and ministerial profile as part of our church record. We will be sending this off to the UUA and UCC denominations at the beginning of December. We then wait to begin receiving information from interested ministers.

On November 19, Toby Smith (our UUA Regional Transition Coach) shared in her sermon the top 10 myths about the search process.

We are pleased to report that as of this weekend, we have finished the congregational record paperwork needed to proceed with our search before the deadline, and it was accepted.

The Shortest Day

So the shortest day came,
And the year died
And everywhere down the snow white world
Came people singing, dancing,
To drive the dark away.

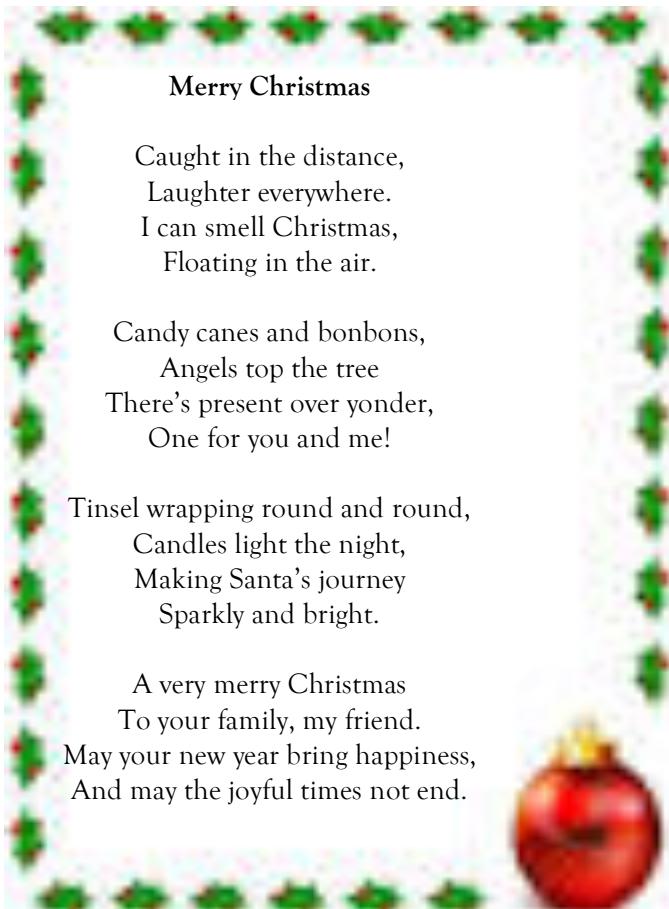
They lighted candles in the winter trees,
They hung their homes with evergreen,
They burned beseeching fires all night long
To keep the year alive.
And when the new year's sunshine
Blazed away, they shouted, reveling.

Through the frosty ages you can hear them
Echoing behind us—listen!
All the long echoes sing the same delight,
This shortest day.

As promise wakens in the sleeping land,
They carol, feast, give thanks,
And dearly love their friends.
And so do we, here, now,
This year and every year!
Welcome Yule!

--Susan Cooper





First Parish Sunday School
would like to wish all of our
families and friends a wonderful
holiday season!
Blessings....
Dawn Galli, Director of Religious
Education.

Christmas Boxes on Dec. 21



First Parish will continue the Day Guild tradition of making Christmas boxes, filled with fruit, candy, jam, and cookies that will be distributed to shut-ins and nursing home residents on Dec. 21. Anyone who can donate home made cookies, individually wrapped candies, or tiny jars of preserves should plan to bring them to the Meeting House that morning by 10 am. We also need drivers to deliver the boxes that afternoon.

If you can help in any way, please call Leanne Wiedeman at 518-307-5352.

Berlin Community Calendar

Thank you to all who have been involved with the Berlin Community Calendar! It was another successful year with some new advertisers, and new families purchasing the calendar, and adding listings.

A portion of the proceeds of the calendar will go to Hurricane Relief through the UCC. Several donations were made over the cost of the calendar specifically to support this cause. We are very happy to have this annual event to reach the broader community.

Keep the calendar in mind as you snap pictures around town throughout the year!

-Wendy Rogalinski, and the Outreach Team



And What A Fair It Was!!!

Sunny skies prevailed for a marvelous turn out at the 69th annual (we think) Friendship Village Fair and Shoppe. We handed out more than 350 sale slips which means at least that many people walked through the doors. We sold out of cheddar cheese, beef stew, fudge and many preserves. At the yard sale, items were selling from the back of the pick-up before they were unloaded. The thrift shop had its largest sale day ever and even the recycling truck saw profits larger than the last few years. It was a joyous day for working together, chatting with neighbors and friends, as well as hosting a lively community event. Our sincere appreciation goes out to every one of you who volunteered in some way or another—you set up tables, baked cookies, cleaned out your closets, knit a pair of mittens, sorted jewelry, swept the floor, and the list goes on and on. We are graciously surprised each year when so many hands come together.

Since we did take in more money than previous years, we are delighted to share some of these funds beyond the donation to the church's operating expenses. Ten percent of our profits will be put into a fund for the hurricane victims of Puerto Rico. The money earned from selling SERRV items (\$500+) will go into the budget for our church outreach committee. Finally, \$1000 will be placed in a new fund toward the purchase of new ovens for the church kitchen-- providing safer and more efficient and reliable cooking for our many food ministries and fundraisers.

Fair income breakdown:

We passed out over 327 purchase slips. A lot of them were for a family of 2 to 3 members. Sunday we had passed out 60 purchase slips.

Saturday proceeds were	\$ 5294.40
Sunday proceeds were	1706.05
Deposited on 11/15	15.00
Deposited on 11/21	37.00
Total as of 11/21	\$7052.45
Expenses as of 11/21	\$499.45
Recycling brought in	\$806.00
Many Hands Thrift Shoppe	\$635.35

We look forward to our 70th Friendship Village Fair next year!!



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

United Church of Christ

To the members of the **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERLIN**:

Greetings: You are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Meeting House in Berlin on **SUNDAY, the TENTH day of DECEMBER 2017** at **ELEVEN** o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles, or in relation thereto:

Article 1. To hear the reports of the Officers, Trustees, and Delegates, and take action relative thereto.

Article 2. To hear the report of the Nominating Committee and elect officers, a resolutions committee, and a nominating committee for one year, one member of the First Parish Church Council for three years; and two delegates and two alternate delegates to all assemblies of the United Church of Christ for one year; or take action relative thereto.

Article 3. To consider resolutions and hear suggestions for future action.

Barry W. Eager, Clerk



Of Note...from the Choir Director

With the arrival of the month of December, marking the end of the year, the holiday season is now fully upon us. Christmas trees decorate homes, streets, parks, and businesses; holiday lights illuminate the same. Holiday music is heard from morn to night on phones, computers, car radios, local stores, as well as "the mall". For me, however, this is the time to enjoy live music that only really comes once a year: during Advent and Christmas.

There are a multitude of opportunities for live Christmas performances in Boston and Cambridge. If you look a little closer to home, however, you can hear, and even participate in, some wonderful musical programs in our own town and within the Worcester area. Since I'm "chorally biased", most of what follows, but not all, are choral performances or services where seasonal choral music plays a prominent role. Many are opportunities for you to lift your own voice in seasonal song!

November 29th, Wednesday

To begin with, if you are free to go to lunch at 12:00 noon, Mechanics Hall (321 Main St.) in Worcester offers one of its free "Brown Bag Concerts" featuring 3 area organists playing "the Worcester organ" and the WPI Big Band in a 1-hour concert, "All That (Holiday) Jazz!" If you don't bring your own lunch, you can buy a brown bag lunch there.

December 1st, Friday

Harmonie Transverse, the Boston-based flute choir, will grace FPC Berlin at the Meetinghouse on Friday at 8:00 PM in a free concert. We are proud that our own Serge Paul-Emile, who can be heard often during our Sunday services, is a member of this well known ensemble.

December 3rd, Sunday

Two churches with fine music programs will be offering a services of Advent music at 4:00 PM in Worcester: both First Baptist Church (on the corner of Salisbury St. and Park Ave.) and All Saints Episcopal Church (on Irving St.) will begin the Advent journey with music and readings. In most of these services, the congregation also gets to raise their voices with those of the choir on the wonderful hymns of the season. Also, a little earlier this day, at 3:00 PM, the First Unitarian Church (90 Main St.) of Worcester will offer a free concert of John Rutter's "Gloria" as well as seasonal favorites.

December 6th, Wednesday

Another free 1-hour "Brown Bag Concert" at Mechanics Hall, this time featuring the New England Conservatory Winds and Chamber Singers with the 35 members of the U.S. Navy Band Northeast

December 10th, Sunday

Trinity Lutheran Church (across the street from the Worcester Art Museum) offers its own Lessons & Carols at 5:00 PM. Another chance to raise your voice in song!

December 23rd, Saturday

9 Lessons & Carols at All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester at 3:30 PM.

Cheers!

Bob Specian, choir director



Annual Holiday Flute Concert on Dec. 1

Harmonie Transverse, a flute choir, is presenting its Tenth Annual Holiday Concert in Berlin, MA, on Friday December 1st. The concert, sponsored by the First Parish Church of Berlin, will take place at 8:00 pm at the church, on 24 Central Street, Berlin.

The ensemble was formed in 2002 by flutists who performed with the New England Conservatory's Metropolitan Flute Orchestra. These musicians, who are performers, teachers, parents, and artists, play a wide range of flutes that include the piccolo, C Flute, G Alto Flute, Bass Flute and Contra Bass Flute. This instrumentation provides a six octave range nearly covering the full range of a piano and an orchestra. The group takes its name from the word **Harmonie** for *wind band* and **Transverse** for *side blown flute*.

Members of *Harmonie Transverse* have performed with the NEC Metropolitan Flute Orchestra in concert tours in France, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and The Czech Republic, as well as performing at several recent National Flute Conventions in the United States. Over the past decade, *Harmonie Transverse* has served to kick off *Christmas in Berlin*, and has performed as part of the Worcester Trinity Lutheran Church Concert Series, the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden Arts Series, the Wachusett Regional High School Black Box Concert Series, Westford Parish Center for the Arts Series, and at other venues.

The Program will be a mixture of classical and fun to listen music for ALL AGES!!

Jay V. Kast-Tuttle, Conductor/Director, is a flutist and teacher. He received his Bachelor of Music from Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, and a Master of Music from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Serge Paul-Emile, a member of the ensemble, is a resident of Berlin.



Not All Holiday Trees are Green

This is for those who would like to take a few minutes for a walk in the woods to visit with a 250 year old pasture oak, and have some moments of peace and meditation as a prelude to Christmas.



We will gather at the Meeting House on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4:30 pm. Be sure you have boots or walking shoes, and are prepared for a walk through the field at the corner of Pleasant St. and Central St, and into the woods. It takes about 10 minutes from the Meeting House to the oak. There will be a few words and some song around this very special Christmas tree, and then we will walk back to 11 Pleasant St. on a candlelit path. You are invited to stay for a cup of wassail (it is

tradition to bring your own cup) or cocoa for the younger set. Thomas Andrew will lead the walk.

A Few Fair Photos





All Was Calm, All Was...PIZZA!

24 Central St.
Berlin, MA 01503
Office 978.838.2575
Building Use
Coordinator Email:
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

First Parish Pizza will happen on Friday, Dec. 8, 5 – 7 pm. Eat in or take out. Call 978-838-2964 after 3 pm on Friday to place your order.



December Specials:

Christmas Pepper (red and green)
Chipotle Cajun Shrimp with guacamole (!!)

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



www.fpcberlin.org

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



Winter Solstice Dec. 21
The Shortest Day, Longest Night

Rev. Frieda Gillespie, interim minister Dawn Galli, RE director
Robert Specian, choir director Robert Cunningham, pianist