

www.fpcberlin.org
January 2018



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

Pizza Nite
Friday, Jan. 12
5 – 7pm
Meeting
House
Eat-in or
Take-home



Mission Statement
Supper & Workshop
Tuesday, Jan. 16
6 pm
Meeting House



Breakfast Buffet
Sunday, Jan. 21
8:30 – 9:30 am
Meeting House

Annual Meeting
Sunday,
Jan. 28
12 noon
potluck lunch
preceding



From the Minister

There is a beautiful sunrise this morning; great swaths of pink and purple cross the sky. It is magnificent and freely offered for us to take in or not. After all of the shopping, wrapping, visiting, hosting, baking, cooking, dining and singing of the holiday season, we should feel rather exuberant. However, we might also be a little tired. Rest if you need to keep your spirits high.

January is a month of getting back to work--living our faith and doing the work of the church. We have the last session of mission statement creation on the evening of Jan 16th. We will be welcoming a new Church Secretary, Shikarro Egan. Work continues by the Search Team to find a settled minister. The Transition Team will be offering a breakfast gathering on Sunday, Jan. 21. The Annual Meeting will be after service on the 28th.

In this New Year there is much to look forward to, much work to be done. Take time to question, dream, wonder about new ways the church can be attractive to and nurture new people. Time also to consider the ways in which the church community nurtures you. Let the excitement of these times give you new energy and faith.

I look forward to our work together.

Blessings,
Frieda



"We shall overcome because Carlisle is right. "No lie can live forever."
We shall overcome because William Cullen Bryant is right. "Truth crushed to earth will rise again." We shall overcome because James Russell Lowell is right. "Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne." Yet that scaffold sways the future. We shall overcome because the Bible is right. "You shall reap what you sow." With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

---MLKJr, "The Other America"

Search Team Report

The Search Team has met weekly to complete the congregational record and church profile required for the search of a settled minister. These documents have been released to interested ministers who are in search associated with the UUA, and on January 1 the names of ministers in search who are interested in First Parish will be released to the Team! We are also working with the UCC to accomplish the same.

The Team has also been hard at work putting together a 'packet' of materials, including recent church newsletters, bulletins, pictures, church history, last year's annual report, etc. This packet will be made available online to those candidates interested in First Parish Church.

Coming in February..."Beyond Categorical Thinking" workshop. This workshop is designed to promote inclusive thinking and to help prevent unintended discrimination in the ministerial search process. The workshop is designed to help participants come to terms with their own, often involuntary "categorical thinking." The workshop will be conducted by two trained leaders from the UUA who themselves represent some of the diversity of which UUA congregations advocate. These individuals have examined their own fears and prejudices and have learned effective methods to address these fears in themselves and in congregations. A date for the all-church workshop is still to be determined.

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



Save the Date! Tuesday, Jan 16 Rev. Justine Sullivan will be at FPC to facilitate finishing the MISSION STATEMENT work begun in December.

We will start with a simple supper at 6pm. You are welcome to attend even if you did not come to the first meeting.

Upcoming at Sunday School

During the month of January, the Sunday School children will be learning about the *Epiphany* and *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*. We had such a wonderful time putting together our Christmas Pageant and would like to thank all of our families for their help!

We look forward to a wonderful New Year! I am very happy to be a part of our wonderful, loving church and Sunday School!

Blessings,
Dawn Galli, R.E. Director



**ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JAN. 28
NOON**

**POTLUCK LUNCH PRECEEDING
Signup in Central Hall**

**Annual reports are due by Jan. 14.
Please send your report to
secretary@fpchberlin.org**

Do you like to sing (in the car, in the shower, with the radio...)?

So do we!

Come sing with the FPC choir!

Thursday evenings

7:30 – 9:30

in the

Meeting House choir room.



Sunday Mornings

Jan 7 Rev. Gillespie preaching on "Radical Optimism." Can we be optimistic and fully aware of the serious problems ahead?

Jan 14 Thomas Andrew leading worship. This year marks in April the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King. The text for the service will be King's great speech "The Other America", given at Grosse Pointe High School on March 14 1968, just three weeks before his assassination. In it he deals with economic inequality and its corrosive impact on our national community. Fifty years on, his words still ring with truth and today they are perhaps more relevant and more broadly applicable than on the day that they were spoken in Michigan a half century ago.

Jan 21 Rev. Gillespie Breakfast before worship (see below)

Jan 28 Rev. Gillespie
Potluck luncheon and Annual Meeting following worship

Sunday Morning Breakfast Buffet



The Transition team invites everyone to breakfast at the Meeting House on Sunday, Jan. 21 8:30 – 9:30am. The buffet will have many choices...and you have the option to stay for worship after. Come sit with your church friends over breakfast.

*Let our New Year's resolution be this: we
will be there for one another as fellow
members of humanity, in the finest sense
of the word.*

Goran Persson





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



PIZZA NITE Jan. 12
5-7 pm

Second Friday Pizza Nite at FPC! Pizza buffet at the Meeting House or call (978-838-2964 after 2:00) to order all hand-made 14" rounds to take home—baked or unbaked. We will also wrap-unbaked-for-freezing...a great way to have FPC pizza another day!

Special in January:

- Artichoke hearts, crushed tomato base, roasted garlic, ricotta, balsamic drizzle
- Classic Hawaiian

**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



*Cheers to a new year! And another chance
 for us to get it right.
 --Oprah Winfrey*

Rev. Frieda Gillespie
 Robert Specian, choir director

Dawn Galli, RE director
 Robert Cunningham, accompanist