

www.fpcberlin.org
February 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



FREE Community
Supper
Saturday, Feb. 3
5 – 7 pm
Meeting House
Spaghetti and more

First Parish
Pizza
Friday, Feb. 9
5 – 7 pm
Meeting
House
Eat-in or take-out



Convivium Musicum
Concert
Sunday, Feb. 11
4 pm
Meeting House

Valentine's Day
Wednesday, Feb. 14



From the Minister

We welcome the new Church Secretary, Shikarro Egan, to First Parish. Shikarro has extensive secretarial and project management experience from various positions in the area. She brings her excellent organizational and communication skills to us. She will be doing the Sunday Bulletin and managing the rentals of the church initially. Those of you who were at the breakfast on the 21st met her and you can meet her Tuesday or Thursday 9:30 - 2:30 or call the church number to reach her by phone. Her email is Secretary@FPCBerlin.org. She has been doing a great job so far and I hope you will find her, as I have, very easy to work with.

Now is the time when new leaders are chosen/volunteered, and many are called. There are lots of places where your help would be appreciated. Do you have a passion for Religious Exploration for children, youth or adults? If so, your ideas and help are needed. Do you have skills related to stewardship of the church, if so, your creative ideas and help are needed.

The Transition Team worked last month with many of you to develop a mission statement for the church. This is not a replacement for the covenant but rather a short tag line that people can get a flavor of who you are quickly and be enticed to come to church. It will be very handy in creating advertising for events at the church. The statement is in its final wordsmithing stage and you might be called upon to help with the final wording. Stay tuned.

Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day,

Frieda



Check out denominational resources and inspiration!
uua.org Unitarian Universalist Association
ucc.org United Church of Christ*



If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Martin Luther King Jr.

*Check it out! The UCC has a new logo!

Special Concert at First Parish on February 11

Convivium Musicum, the Boston-based choir for Renaissance music, will return to FPC Berlin to present a program of choral works from the 15th through 18th centuries on **February 11th at 4 :00 PM**. The ensemble, for which our former choir director, Sarah Riskind was assistant conductor for three years, is composed of 20 singers under the direction of Michael Barrett. In celebration of his 10 years of leadership, the concert, entitled "**Retrospective**", revisits some of Barrett's favorites from the music performed by the ensemble during his tenure. For "**Retrospective**", the group will bring its characteristic clear sound and attention to interpretative detail to well-loved pieces from the era, including works by composers Robert White, Robert Parsons, William Byrd, and Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Johannes Ockeghem, and



Antonio Lotti. Motets by Francisco Guerrero, Jean Mouton, Ludwig Senfl, Alexander Utendal, and Giaches de Wert complete the program.

General admission is \$20; \$12 for students, seniors and limited income. Admission is free for children under 18. A portion of the proceeds will help support the music ministry of First Parish Church.

Update From The Search Team

The Search Committee is continuing the process of finding a settled minister. We are in the midst of interviews with UUA candidates and our position has now been posted with the UCC, so we expect to have contacts and to have interviews with UCC candidates over the next week or two. We have been encouraged by the number and qualities of candidates that we have seen thus far. During the month of February, we will be winnowing down the pool of candidates with the idea of doing candidate weekends with 3-4 candidates in March.

We particularly wish to thank Rev. Gillespie for her help in preparing us for the interview process.

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

A New Face in the Church Office

Shikarro Egan started as the Office Assistant on January 9th. She has worked as an Administrative Assistant throughout the Greater Boston area and most recently was an Account Executive/Project Manager at Staples, Inc., in Framingham. She lives in Lancaster and is looking forward to working closer to her home. Her hours are 9:30 am to 1:30 pm on Tuesday and Thursday.



First Parish Church February Sunday School News



Hello Sunday School families! I wanted to let you know about what the children will be working on during the month of February. Of course with Valentine's Day approaching, we will be discussing kindness, love, and treating our family and friends kindly. *We will be making homemade cards that I will personally deliver to the Assisted Living Facility that I am employed at.* We have 30 residents that I know will be thrilled to receive these cards made with love! I know the children will enjoy this activity! I purchased beautiful suncatchers that the children will be painting and giving to someone special to them.

Blessings,

Dawn Galli, Director of Religious Education

Cell: 774-287-1360 Email: Dawnmgalli@aol.com

February Worship

Feb 4: Rev. Frieda Belonging: The Meaning of Membership

Why do we join the church or other organizations? What does it mean to belong?

Feb. 11: Rev. Betsy Waters

Feb 18: Rev. Frieda White Privilege This is a concept that is really hard for white people to understand. Don't we all live in the same society? Well, not really.

Feb 25: Rev. Frieda Five Generations - Our church contains members of 5 different generations! How do we understand each other?

Of Note

Now that one of the busiest seasons for musicians has passed by, I hope that most of you were able to enjoy some live performances of seasonal music. My wife, Donna, and I attended the service of Lessons & Carols at First Baptist Church in Worcester to spend a music-filled 90 minutes away from the hustle and bustle going around outside that tranquil space. It was well worth the effort because the choice of repertoire, readings and hymns, and the singing of both the choir and congregation set the mood to contemplate the true meaning of Christmas.

Once we crossed into 2018, the FPC Berlin Choir traveled (on the coldest morning of the winter, mind you!) over to Maynard to add our voices to those of St. Bridget's Church Choir: we were invited to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ordination of their pastor, Fr. Tom. Perhaps we can invite their choir here for something special later this year. It's always a joy to be able to combine our small choir with other similar choirs, the result being a much larger group that makes a real music impact on the attending congregation!

Here's a reminder about attending a live concert right here in the FPC Berlin Meetinghouse: **Convivium Musicum**, who has sung here for the last few years, will return on **Sunday, February 11**, to present a concert titled "Retrospective". It will feature well-loved *a cappella* music of various European composers who wrote during the 15th to the 18th centuries. Just pray now for NO snow on that date.

Finally, we are in the talking stages of doing another Choir Exchange this year with the Boxborough United Church of Christ. Both choirs last year learned new music for the occasion, and enjoyed presenting the same program on different days to both congregations. It would be a nice way to celebrate the coming of Spring. If you'd like to join us in this endeavor, come to rehearsal on any Thursday night at 7:30 PM, or email (bspecian@verizon.net) me if you need more information.

Bob Specian, Choir Director





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.
 Administrator's hours
 are flexible, so please
 call ahead. 978-838-
 2575

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



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Second Friday Pizza

First Parish ovens will be turning out fresh homemade pizza on Friday, Feb. 9 from 5 – 7 pm. Take home 14” rounds or join us for the pizza buffet in house....Cheese, Veggie, Pepperoni plus monthly specials. Call 978-838-2964 after 3 pm on Friday to order take out.

Specials:

- ❖ Eggplant and Ricotta
- ❖ Meat special—sure to be terrific!



Community Supper Saturday, Feb. 3 5 - 7 pm

Spaghetti, meatballs or
 grilled veggie option, peas,
 garlic bread, dessert, drinks

FREE TO ALL

*Donations may be made to Minister's Discretionary Fund,
 World Central Kitchen, Berlin Food Pantry
 NO donation is required*

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“Half the wood and half the hay you
 should have on Groundhog Day.”

February 2

Rev. Frieda Gillespie Shikarro Egan, secretary
 Dawn Galli, Religious education director
 Robert Specian, choir director Robert Cunningham, pianist