

www.fpcberlin.org
March 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, March 9
5 – 7 pm
Meeting House
Eat-in or take
home

Service of Commissioning the
Committees
Sunday, March 11
10 am
All committee people (and
your friends) please plan to
attend!

Irish Night Buffet
Saturday,
March 17
5 – 7 pm
Meeting House
All-you-care-to-eat
Takeout available



Palm Sunday March 25th 10
A.M. Worship

Maundy Thursday March 29th
6:30 P.M. Passover Seder
meal – *advance sign up
required*

Good Friday March 30th
12:30 P.M.



Easter Sunday
April 1st 6:30
A.M. Sunrise
Service behind
185 Sawyer Hill
Road-- Easter
Breakfast
following

10:00 A.M. Easter Worship

From the Minister

These last couple of weeks have left us overwhelmed by the horror of mass shootings. Once again we are reminded that nothing has been done to solve this problem. The typical cycle of shooting, mourning, outrage, unmet demands for gun control legislation and then apathy has been interrupted by a new energy and sense of purpose among students who are vowing to demonstrate by walking out of their classes and marching. They have already started confronting congress in Washington and there are gatherings to protest all over the country. “Do *something*” is the message they bring. Can they effect change? It can’t hurt for them to try. They will certainly make a difference and especially if they vote. The myth that all can be transformed in one momentous confrontation is very much a product of an idealistic culture. Ideals while admirable and inspiring rarely effect change. Ideals must be turned into ideas. And while it may be easy to imagine all-encompassing solutions, real solutions never are easy or all-encompassing. There are organizations working to decrease gun violence with many creative ideas. Everything becomes possible when we don’t allow other motivations such as greed and power mongering to prevail. One of the best ways to do this is to work at the local level to promote state and local legislation through dialog with our neighbors and friends. There is one goal we all have: No more children dying from gun violence. Experts tell us that we can get very close to this by some modest changes to the laws related to access to guns. Our children have a great deal of heart, spirit and intelligence. They will have an impact, but let’s not forget that it is fundamentally our job to protect our children. We can’t expect them to do that job for themselves. But they are reminding us that we must act. Let us reignite our ideals and allow them to motivate us to action.

Blessed Be.
Frieda

March Sundays

3/4 - Rev. Frieda , "Hospitality" Hospitality is one of the most important skills a church must have in order to grow. Without it people do not feel welcome. How do we develop that skill in an authentic way?

3/11 - Rev. Frieda "The Widow's Oil" - One of the better known miracle stories from the Hebrew Bible is the Widow's Oil. Is it a miracle we can all experience?

3/18 guest preacher

3/25 - Barry Eager - shares a Good Friday reflection.

A Thank You...and a query



We are grateful for the recent donations received recently for the office. They have been put to good use; the new office chair is extremely comfortable! Does anyone have a coat rack they are willing to part with or an electric tea kettle they would like to donate?

Shikarro Egan
Secretary
secretary@fpcberlin.org
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

FIRST PARISH PRESENTS THE ANNUAL IRISH NIGHT BUFFET

5 – 7 PM IN THE MEETING HOUSE
ST PATRICKS DAY SATURDAY MARCH 17



CORNERED BEEF CABBAGE POTATOES CARROTS PARSNIPS
TRADITIONAL BREADS DESSERT GREEN GROG

ADULTS 10 KIDS 12 AND UNDER 6

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE PRE-ORDERING YOUR TICKETS BY SIGNING
UP IN THE MEETING HOUSE OR EMAILING RECORD@FPCBERLIN.ORG



Irish Night is one of our annual fundraisers that support the church's budget (and 10% of all fundraising proceeds go to outreach/mission projects) Please consider adding a bit on to your ticket purchase to help sponsor the event.



March Sunday School News!

Happy March to all of our Sunday School families. We are looking forward to an exciting March in Sunday School. Some of the things we will be learning about this month include *Palm Sunday!* We will be working on a Palm Sunday Chain of Praises activity. This is a great worship experience for our children. With my assistance in class, the children will be asked to write some praise statements on strips of colored paper. We will then collect the strips and make a beautiful long chain that we will share with everyone. We will also be making a Palm Frond Collage that the children will be bringing home. In addition, the children will be hearing "The Story of People Waving Palms to Jesus". I have gathered some wonderful word search puzzles for the children to work on in class with the Palm Sunday theme.

Feel free to call or email me at any time with any questions, etc.

Blessings, Dawn Galli, Director of Religious Education 774-287-1360

Email: Dawnmgalli@aol.com



FIRST PARISH CHURCH Children's EASTER EGG HUNT Sunday April 1st

The youth group will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt with the help from our Director of Religious Education. Join us for some fun!

Holy Week 2018

The people of First Parish Church and the larger community are invited to join with us in these services and events recounting the last days of Jesus in his earthly life.



Palm Sunday March 25th 10 A.M. Worship Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday March 29th 6:30 P.M. Passover Seder meal

Good Friday March 30th 12:30 P.M. Gathering for Meditation with scripture readings

Easter Sunday April 1st 6:30 A.M. Sunrise Service behind 185 Sawyer Hill Road-- Easter Breakfast following

10:00 A.M. Easter Worship



Note-worthy

The month of February can be biting cold, which, to me, makes winter less desirable than it already is. This year it was surprisingly warm, even record breaking on the 21st of the month, which just teased us with the Spring to come.

A bright spot for FPC Berlin at the beginning of the month was the annual trek here of the Boston-based *Convivium Musicum* to perform a Sunday late afternoon concert. This year's concert was a celebration of the 10th anniversary of their singing under the direction of Michael Barrett, and their repertoire consisted of many favorite pieces learned under his tutelage. Though the audience was small on that cold rainy afternoon, the singing was delightful, and the reception afterwards was satisfying to all who sang or listened. We are indeed fortunate to have them use our Meetinghouse to make the sound ideas created four to six hundred years ago come alive again!



The choir sang “*When Jesus Wept*”, a round by the early American, largely self-taught, composer William Billings (*portrait at left*), who wrote many pieces—hymns, anthems, fuguing tunes— both for teaching and performing. One, in particular, entitled “**Berlin**” is found in his 1781 publication “*The Psalm-Singer’s Amusement*”. Almost all of his music was written to be sung unaccompanied, or “a cappella”, in four parts, and, in his day, it was very popular, but he lost popularity when musical tastes of that time changed. He died a pauper in 1800 and is often considered to be America’s first composer.

The last Sunday of the month brought 2 guest musicians, Holly Parmenter, soprano, and Serge Paul-Emile, floutist, accompanied by Bob Cunningham, who added their musical gifts to the morning Service.

--Bob Specian, choir director

Search Update

The Search Committee continues its work. We have made contact with several UCC ministerial candidates and we will be participating in round two of the UUA process, which begins on April 9th. The process is a challenging and continuing one, but we remain encouraged by the interest of some promising candidates. We are committed to the task of finding the right match for FPC and not “settling” for a settled minister who does not show real promise to deliver leadership and inspiration.

--Thomas Andrew, Audrey McNickol, Jean Valchuis, Wendy Rogalinski, Barry Eager

All-Church Seder

We will be celebrating our Seder on Thursday, March 29 at 6:30 pm the Meeting House. This is the traditional Passover meal, a celebration of freedom and justice—and it is the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples. All ages are welcome to attend, but please SIGN UP IN ADVANCE on the sheet in the Meeting House, or email your intention to record@fpctberlin.org.

Everyone must have a seat at the table, so we need an accurate count. I will be asking for cooking help by handing out recipes for various traditional dishes—please let me know (in person or by emailing record@fpctberlin.org if you are willing to assist by cooking a dish at home.

--Joni Bergen



2018 Directory of Officers, Staff, and Teams

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

Church Staff

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

Church Council

2019	Stan Rogalinski	UU	508-400-0202
	Peter Wheeler	FPC	508-395-2215
	Clive Holyoak	UCC	2682
2020	Barry Eager	UU	2502
		FPC	
2021	Audrey McNickol	UCC	
	Ann Phipps	UCC	7311

Deacons

Thomas Andrew	2104
Kim Dunkelberg	508-395-1271
Clive Holyoak	2682
Liane Leahy	978-567-0883
Janet O'Brien	
Peter Wheeler	508-395-2215
Jim McNickol	508-981-5969

Trustees

2019	Robyn Tarantino	978-618-4204
2020	Clive Holyoak	2682
2021	Jean Valchuis	0733
2022	Edith Brewer	2876
2023	Jim McNickol	508-981-5969

Leadership Development

Transition Team/Pastoral Relations

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

Memorial

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

Historical

Beezy Bentzen	2307
Barry Eager	2502
Judy Duff	2156

Church Officers

Moderator:	<i>Clive Holyoak</i>	2682
Clerk:	<i>Joni Bergen</i>	2104
Treasurer:	<i>Stan Rogalinski</i>	0155
Collector:	<i>Dick Mills</i>	2272
Assistant Treasurer:	<i>Edith Brewer</i>	2876

Religious Education

Beverley Holyoak	2682
Wendy Rogalinski	0155
Victoria Gaisford	

Property

Joni Bergen	2104
Barry Eager	2502
Jim McNickol	508-981-5969
Clive Holyoak	2682

Outreach

Llane Leahy	978-567-0883
Lulu Fite	774-614-1227
Wendy Rogalinski	0155

Stewardship

Edith Brewer	2876
Barry Eager	2502

Finance

Joni Bergen	2104
Edith Brewer	2876
Barry Eager	2502
Jim McNickol	508-981-5969

Music

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

Worship

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

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
 Minister's Office Hours
 Tues, Thurs 10 - 2
 or by appointment.
 Secretary's Hours
 Tues, Thurs
 9:30 – 1:30

PIZZZ-AHHH

Join us on Friday, March 9, for
 Pizza Nite at FPC. Order
 takeout, baked or unbaked, by
 calling 978-838-2964 after 3:00
 (14" rounds, all homemade)

Cheese \$13
 Very Veggie \$14
 Pepperoni \$14
 Specials of the month \$15

OR come to the Meeting House 5 - 7 pm for the all-you-care-to-eat
 Pizza Buffet. Adult \$9 Senior \$8 Kid under 12 \$5 under 3 free



Special this month:

- ❖ Camden Steak and Cheese (you know why)
- ❖ Spinach, broccoli, scallion with pesto

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



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Vernal Equinox
Tuesday March 20

Rev. Frieda Gillespie, minister
 Shikarro Egan, secretary
 Robert Specian, choir director
 Robert Cunningham, pianist