

www.fpcberlin.org
April 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

Sunday April 1
Easter



Sunrise service 6:30
am
On Sawyer Hill
breakfast following
Worship 10 am
Egg Hunt following

Friday April 13
First Parish Pizza
5 – 7 pm
Eat-in or
take home



Saturday, April 28
9 – noon
FPC Earth Day Clean-up of
the Common



Coffee and
donuts
provided
Bring your
tools of choice!
(shovel, rake,
pruner, broom)

Everyone thinks of
changing the world, but no
one thinks of changing
themselves.



From the Minister

Spring is here, whether or no, winter gives way.

This morning when walking my little dog, we came across a large branch, a victim of the last winds. It was covered with buds! Buds that will soon die with the branch but were valiantly continuing while they could. We also saw a young squirrel that had been sadly hit by a car. Still the squirrels keep growing in number and asserting their place in the neighborhood. The turkeys are out in full force, the males guarding the females (whether they like it or not). It is quite a sight in early morning to see them float on their giant wings gently down from the tall pine trees where they roost at night. One stands sentinel on the roof of a house across the street and the others are guided by the loud gobbling telling them where to assemble for roll call (?) And the goldfinches are back at the bird feeders! Spring is here and nothing is going to stop it. It is time for shedding all the extra stuff of our lives, keeping only that which we need and that which gives us joy.

Can we do the same with our old conflicts and griefs? Can we accept gratefully the new beginning that we are being given, in our lives, in our church? It is so inspiring to see those who have suffered illness and injury during the winter returning to our midst. It is time to reconnect with each other. Watch for notice of a spring gathering coming soon!

Peace,
Frieda

April Sunday Worship Calendar

April 1 6:30 am 10 am	Easter Sunrise Service - Easter Sunday Service
April 8 10 am	Rev. Frieda - The Peace of Wild Things
April 15 10 am	Rev. Frieda - Loneliness and Disconnection
April 22 10 am	Barbara Paul-Emile
April 29 10 am	Earth Day Service

Music Notes

The following is an excerpt from a book, *“Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing”*, by Stacy Horn:

When you sing, musical vibrations move through you, altering your physical and emotional landscape. Group singing, for those who have done it, is the most exhilarating and transformative of all. It takes something incredibly intimate, a sound that begins inside you, shares it with a roomful of people, and it comes back as something even more thrilling: harmony. So it's not surprising that group singing is on the rise. According to Chorus America, 32.5 million adults sing in choirs, almost 10 million over the past six years. Many people think of church music when you bring up group singing, but there are over 270,000 choruses across the country, and they include gospel group to show choirs like the ones depicted in {the TV show} “Glee” to strictly amateur groups.

As the popularity of group singing grows, science has been hard at work trying to explain why it has such a calming yet energizing effect on people. What researchers are beginning to discover is that singing is like an infusion of the perfect tranquilizer, the kind that both soothes your nerves and elevates your spirits.

The elation may come from [endorphins](#), a hormone released by singing, which is associated with feelings of pleasure. Or it might be from [oxytocin](#), another hormone released during singing, which has been found to alleviate anxiety and stress. Oxytocin also enhances feelings of trust and bonding, which may explain why still more studies have found that singing lessens feelings of [depression and loneliness](#). A very [recent study](#) even attempts to make the case that “music evolved as a tool of social living,” and that the pleasure that comes from singing together is our evolutionary reward for coming together cooperatively, instead of hiding alone, every cave-dweller for him or herself.

.....(continued in the next issue of “The Record”)

Sunday School News

During the month of April, the Sunday School children will be learning about Easter. We will be playing Easter Bingo and Easter Dominoes. We will also be learning “The Jelly Bean Prayer”.

Blessings,
Dawn Galli, R.E. Director



Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave.
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made.
White is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for a new tomorrow.
And handful of jelly beans,
Colorful and sweet,
Is a prayer, a promise,
A loved one's treat!



First Parish Trustees' Report 2017

Trustee accounts contributed a total of \$28,309.88 to the church budget in 2017

Overall health of our accounts is strong at the moment recovering from years of a slow economy and additional contributions to deficit budgets

Account	Value End 2017	Value End 2016	change	2017 Budget Contribution
Hartshorn	575,706.16	535,710.86	39,995.30	18805.93
Schwartz	56,347.49	53,592.02	2,755.47	1626.35
MLK	20,744.00	17,540.46	3,203.54	0
Evening Guild	17,564.67	17,174.84	389.83	1378.40
General Trust Fund	50,375.39	42,595.85	7,779.54	0
Larned Revolving	4,207.18	3,557.45	649.73	0
Gold Leaf Dome	2,729.24	2,729.24		0
Churchill Parsonage	25,323.58	21,412.81	3,910.77	0
Albert Wheeler	180,061.38	164,185.21	15,876.17	6499.20
Total	933,059.09	858,498.74	74,560.35	28309.88

For the Trustees ,
Clive Holyoak

Search Committee Report

Perhaps it is the season... or perhaps it is the word "Search", which means to circle or wander until the way is revealed or the end of the task is clear. Perhaps it was just that last night we had a lovely Seder service which commemorates the Exodus, which was a communal progress away from the past and to the future of the community, but I was put in mind of the last verses of Exodus:

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.

Like the Exodus, the search process is an exploration and there are times when we progress...and there are times when we have had to stop to reassess.

In the first phase of the UUA process, we interviewed five of the 11 ministers who showed interest in us. Unfortunately, even though we got back to the four that we would consider for a pre-candidate weekend within 5-7 days of interviews, they had already committed to the maximum number of weekends. We decided to defer the fifth until the second round. We clearly misjudged the velocity of the process!

We have also interviewed four UCC candidates and are taking further steps with two of these. So...now...we:

- Are participating in the April round, and perhaps we might even see some of those we

Continued on back page





Search Report continued

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Minster's Office Hours
Tues, Thurs 10 - 2
or by appointment.
Administrator's hours
are flexible, so please
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2575

- wanted to pre-candidate at that time;
- Are proceeding to neutral pulpit weekends in April and May with two candidates from the UCC that we felt had an appropriate balance and outlook for our federated congregation;
- Will consider a contract or developmental minister from the UUA if the second round does not yield a settled minister candidate.

We are all of good cheer with the process and are committed to finding the best fit and not to "settle for" a settled minister unless we have confidence that he or she will meet our needs. The work that we did last year and the materials that we prepared, as well as the process that went into producing them, have equipped us well and we continue with our search. More to come over the next couple of months! Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any questions!

Thomas Andrew for the Search Committee

Pizza, Pizza! On April 13, 5 – 7 pm

First Parish Pizza happens on the **SECOND** Friday of each month.

April Specials:

- ❖ St. Paddy's Redux
- ❖ Happy Potato (Yukon golds, sun-dried tomato, ricotta, garlic cream...)



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



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SEE fpcberlin.org FOR ALL THE INFO.....

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- “ A gush of bird-song, a patter of dew, A cloud,
and a rainbow's warning, Suddenly sunshine and
perfect blue-- An April day in the morning. ...
• Harriet Prescott Spofford

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