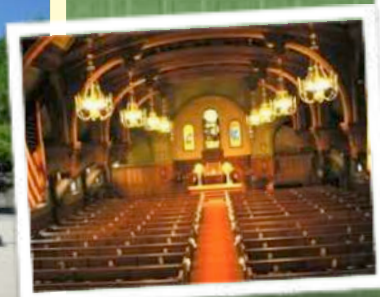


Top of the Square

AUGUST, 2016 NEWSLETTER



First Parish Plymouth Unitarian Universalist National Memorial Pilgrim Church

19 Town Square, Plymouth, MA 02360

www.firstparishplymouthuu.org 508-747-1606 office@firstparishplymouthuu.org

Minister: Reverend Ed Hardy

Director of Religious Education: Kim Caple

Pianist: Peter Dudensing

Director of Music Emerita: Lynne Wilkinson

REVEREND ED HARDY CALLED AS SETTLED MINISTER OF FIRST PARISH PLYMOUTH



At the Annual Meeting of First Parish in Plymouth on June 26, 2016, the members voted unanimously to call Reverend Ed Hardy as its Settled Minister.

Rev. Hardy becomes the 25th Settled Minister to serve this congregation since it settled in Plymouth in 1620.

A Pilgrim's Journey

By Rev. Ed Hardy

Sometimes you hear a voice through the door
calling you, as fish out of water
hear the waves, or a hunting falcon
hears the drum's Come back.
Come back.

This turning toward what you deeply love
saves you. Read the book of your life,
which has been given you.

A voice comes to your soul saying,
Lift your foot. Cross over.

Move into emptiness
of question and answer
and question.

~Rumi

I have seven or eight books of Rumi poems—a couple three or four inches thick. Sometimes I take a book off the shelf and thumb through it stopping here and there. On occasion a poem will reach off the page and grab me by the throat or will lock up my mind in a new and different way. Now a-days you never know where you will discover Rumi. This past Saturday, July 9th, I was in Jamaica Plain for neighborhood porch concerts. You wander the area and on one porch might be a folk group singing, or a poet, a jazz group or Irish dancers. You just wander until you find something you like. Some houses invite you in for a glass of punch or celery sticks with peanut butter or soy butter—it is Jamaica Plain after all. In one house on the wall was this lovely Rumi poem. It caught my eye. I had never seen it before. Or, if I had, it never grabbed me so strongly, so soulfully, with so much immediate meaning—which is one of the reasons I never tire of reading Rumi.

I thought, I hear so many voices through the door calling me these days. Yes, and I find myself turning to what I deeply love. I walked in the woods the other day and followed the advice to “stand still” and “let the trees find you”. Do the trees find you?

I think I will stand still and read the book of my life which has been given me. I hear the voice of my soul saying, “Lift your foot” and I lift my foot tentatively—slowly it rises into emptiness. My book of life calls me to work with those on the margins, or off the page, those who aren't seen or heard—those who are spiritual, but not religious. I wonder how we might we be more spiritual and less religious?

Do you hear a voice through the door?

Calling you?

Do you hear a voice through the door of First Parish?

Calling you?

Is it calling you to something you deeply love?

What is your love calling you to do?

Will you lift your foot?

And cross over?

If you hear a voice through the door—let's talk.



Religious Education



Thank you Kim, Hannah and Lily Caple; Libby, Patrick and Scout Jenks; Amy, Kelly and Will Palmer; Aaron, Callie and Nate Smith; Ann Marie Schulze; Meghan and Addie Snee; and Dianne Zolla. 40 bags were filled and delivered to Head Start for families in need. **AMAZING JOB!!! If you are interested in helping, this will happen every Wednesday for the summer.** For more information, please contact Kim Caple at fpplymouthdre@gmail.com.



AUGUST SERMONS

August 7 **Rock and Roll and God**

Jenn Kanze-Eaton and Chuck Eaton

It's said that it was God who gave us free will, and with it we have challenged, rejoiced and questioned everything, including who is said to have given us the ability. One powerful and rebellious outlet we created to do this is Rock & Roll. Join us for music and reflections on Rock & Roll's tumultuous relationship with God.

August 14 **Black Lives Matter**

Amy Palmer

Black Lives Matter. Already this has been a difficult summer with black, blue and all lives that matter. This will be a service combining my own struggles on what the movement means to me, a wonderfully thought-provoking sermon given by Rev. Kate Wilkinson on July 10th at her congregation in Provincetown brought to us through YouTube, and a respectful discussion about what our individual and community role may be moving forward based on our UU principles. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers.

August 21 **Couldn't we at least...? How Can I help?**

Rev. Ed Hardy

Dean James Ryan of the Harvard Graduate School of Education gave a commencement speech entitled "5 Essential Questions In Life plus a bonus question". We will investigate the questions we began in July. There won't be a quiz, but maybe some time for dialogue and conversation. This question asks us to search deep within ourselves or the project.

August 28 **What Truly Matters?**

And Did You Get What You Wanted Out of Life, Even So?"

Rev. Ed Hardy

Dean James Ryan of the Harvard Graduate School of Education gave a commencement speech entitled "5 Essential Questions In Life plus a bonus question". We will investigate these questions we began in July. There won't be a quiz, but maybe some time for dialogue and conversation. Did you get what you wanted?

The bonus question: And Did you get what you wanted from this life, even so? This question is a reflection on the previous questions and a summing up of our lives.

Coffee Hour Hosts



August 7 Martha Roberts, Deborah Rudolf, Anne Marie Schulze

August 14 Vaughn Keller and Linda Schneider

August 21 Paul Melville and Julia Rose

August 28 Emily Browder-Melville, Chris Lennon, Rick McDonald

Kerry Considine is the coordinator for Fellowship Hosts and is now **mailing reminders** the week before your scheduled time. If, for any reason you cannot perform the duties on the date assigned, please call someone else on the list and work out a swap.

***Coffee Hour depends on donations from you,
so please remember to place a donation in the basket during Coffee Hour.***

If there is an error in the contact information, please contact the church office (office@firstparishplymouthuu.org / 508-747-1606), Conley Pierce (c.pierce1@comcast.net / 508-224-8063), or Anne-Marie Harnett (amh36@hotmail.com / 617-750-9140)

**THIS SUMMER!
SAVE THE DATE!
AUGUST 13th
FOR THE
RENEWAL HOUSE PICNIC**



Every year, First Parish in Kingston organizes an AMAZING event in celebration and support of the incredible families who have received services from the UU Urban Ministries Renewal house currently and throughout the years. First Parish in Plymouth provides some side dishes and desserts and many of our members also attend the event- socializing, arts and crafts, swimming and wonderful company.

Please contact Amy Palmer to let her know what you'll be able to bring and how many will be attending the event.

To learn more about the Renewal House, check out their website at:
http://www.uuum.org/?page_id=199

**First Parish Thank You –
It's the Simple Things**



Thank you Bob Vinson and Patty Devine for replacing a broken wastebasket they found while cleaning the Parish House.

First Parish Sightings:



One of the best things about the Service Auction is that the fun continues past the event. Enjoying brunch on the deck with Dell and John Hammond are Chris Lennon, Charles Tarbox, Marion Galvin, Anne-Marie Harnett and Jan Palmer-Tarbox (behind the camera!)



Ken Stone at the Plymouth Farmer's Market promoting the 'Ban the Bag' movement. Thank you Ken!



AUGUST MEETINGS

PARISH COMMITTEE

Monday, August 1, 7:00 pm, Parish House

RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 9:30 am
Parish House

BUDDHIST MEDITATION

Wednesday, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 7:00 pm
Parish House

SINGING MEDITATION

Wednesday, August 3, 7:00 Pm, Parlor

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 6 & 20, 9:00 am, T-Bones
Plymouth Center



FIRST PARISH BAKE SALE !!

Saturday, August 6, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Outside Kendall Hall



HOSPICE CHOIR

Wednesday, August 10, 17, 24 & 31, 9:30 am
Parlor



RENEWAL HOUSE PICNIC

Saturday, August 13, 10:00 – 5:00 pm
Pinewood Lodge, Plymouth
(Please see other side for more information)

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 16, 7:30 pm, Parish House

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Sunday, August 21, 8:30 am, Parish House

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 27, 9:00 am, Plane Jane's Café
Plymouth Airport, South Meadow Road

SUMMER TIME IS A GREAT TIME TO USE SCRIP CARDS!

Summer.

Hair gets lighter.

Skin gets darker.

Water gets warmer.

Drinks get colder.

Music gets louder.

Nights get longer.

Life gets better.

Be sure to purchase your hat, sunblock, bathing suit, glassware, ear plugs, and caffeinated beverages using scrip cards.

Amy (508-746-3912, apdpalmer@comcast.net)

Val (508-747-4858, vapeck7@comcast.net)



SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
OUTSIDE KENDALL HALL

If you have any questions, or would like to make arrangements to have your confections picked up, please contact Dianne Zolla 508-224-1687
dizolla@yahoo.com

On the day of the big event, items can be dropped off beginning at 9am!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
PARTICIPATING IN THIS IMPORTANT
FUNDRAISING EVENT!

Tour Season is in Full Swing!



First Parish's 2016 tour season is upon us, and as we do every year, we are extending an invitation out to anyone who might be interested in joining us and volunteering a couple of hours each week or a month to help with tours of the Meetinghouse. Training is provided to all who are interested in conducting tours, or welcoming people at the front desk.

An information table will be set up during Sunday mornings during coffee hour. Please stop by and talk with us about what is involved in being a tour volunteer.

We will be conducting tours every Friday & Saturday (10am 12:30-pm or 12:30 to 3:00 pm) June 3rd & 4th through October.

Julia Rose will be doing the scheduling of volunteers. If you can volunteer, please contact Julia at 508-830-0357. THANK YOU!!

The Stained Glass Windows - Treaty with Massasoit and Pilgrims

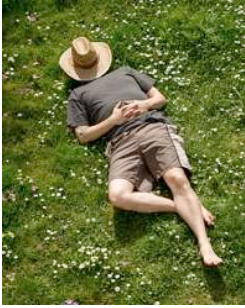


This stained glass window depicts the treaty with Massasoit and the Pilgrims and kept the peace for over 50 years under the following terms:

- I. That neither he nor any of his, should injure or do hurt to any of their people.
- II. That if any of his did any hurt to any of theirs, he should send the offender that they might punish him.
- III. That if any thing were taken away from any of theirs, he should cause it to be restored; and they should do the like to his.
- IV. That if any did unjustly war against him, they would aid him; and if any did war against them, he should aid them.
- V. That he should send to his neighbours confederates to certify them of this, that they might not wrong them, but might be likewise comprised in the conditions of peace.
- VI. That when their men cam to them, they should leave their bows and arrows behind them.

It has been said that these conditions were based on mutual need, compromise, great faith in each other and in their respective Gods, and trust. The Treaty was broken during King Philip's War.

***First Parish in Plymouth
19 Town Square
Plymouth, MA 02360***



***A perfect summer day
is when the sun is shining,
the breeze is blowing,
the birds are singing, and
the lawn mower is broken.***

~James Dent

***First Parish in Plymouth
“Love is the spirit of this congregation and service its law.”***

***Welcome to First Parish Unitarian Universalist
1606 - 2016***