

TOP OF THE SQUARE NOVEMBER, 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



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 21, 7:00 pm, First Parish Plymouth
"How Did We Get Here?"

Plymouth Area Interfaith Clergy Association
Rabbi Lawrence M. Silverman, Congregation Beth Jacob
Reverend Dr. Helen Nablo, Church of the Pilgrimage
Reverend Ed Hardy, First Parish Plymouth

Did your ancestors come on the Mayflower? Did they come by kayak across the Bering Strait? Did they come on a slave ship? Did they come to escape the potato famine? Or to find the streets lined with gold? Did your ancestors come on a steamer to Ellis Island? Or on a rubber tire tube from Cuba? Aren't you glad you are here?



United American Indians of New England National Day of Mourning

Thursday, November 24, Noon, Coles Hill, Plymouth
Followed by a pot luck social in First Parish Church, Kendall Hall

This will be their 47th National Day of Mourning March in Plymouth, and for many years they have gathered in Kendall Hall for a turkey dinner. **Over the past couple of years, a few generous souls have donated a cooked turkey for this event. All donations will, once again, be gratefully appreciated.**



Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse

Another way to give thanks is to donate to the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse. 95 cents of every dollar they receive is used on services for neighbors in need.



Minister

Reverend Ed Hardy

**Director of
Religious Education**
Kim Caple

Director of Music
Sandra Hammond

**Director of Music
Emerita**
Lynne Wilkinson



**Parish Committee:
President**
Anne-Marie Harnett

Treasurer
Conley Pierce

Clerk
Deborah Rudolf

Member at Large
Chris Lennon



A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

BY REVEREND ED HARDY

By the way,
I'm wearing
the smile you
gave me.
hplynka.com

Truth seems to be a disappearing commodity in public discourse these days. Truth seems to rise to the top on the loudest or most repetitious voice. The proud banner of the New York Times used to be “**All the News Fit to Print.**” Sometimes in the race to get a scoop; to be first with the “breaking news” leaves “Fit to Print” or the truth on the newsroom floor. And yes, I have succumbed to seeking the next salacious tidbit of gossip rather than pressing for the truth. Sometimes, listening to the news, I can hardly stand myself—the way I lean in.

What has happened to Civil Discourse? A number of my friends have said they don't want to discuss the news anymore—it is too titillating. It has lost its civility. Does a lie oft repeated become the truth? Is the truth a piece of hot metal that only needs to be hammered into place?

And where is the truth of character versus the funk and flash of personality? Is reality only what we see on reality shows?

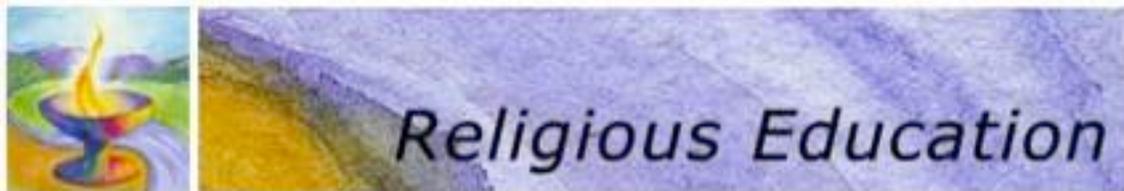
Who knows the truth? What are the truths that you know? The ones you hold dear? What truths would you stand up for? Make a sacrifice for? Is truth losing value? Does truth no longer have stature? Is truth passe? Does truth have a new name?

One of the lines of our covenant that I respect and cherish the most is We “seek the truth in love.” May we continue to hold this dear—we are still—always—searching for the truth with the light of love.

The truth is so rare that it is delightful to tell. ~ Emily Dickenson

The Truth by Tim Dlugos

Every time I use
my language, I tell
the truth. A cat
in a white collar,
like a priest with calico
fur, walks across the dead
grass of the yard, and out
through the white fence. The sun's
strong, but the colors of the lawn
were washed out by the winter, not the light.
February. Stained glass window of the house
next door takes the sun's full brunt.
It must look spectacular
to the neighbor in my head,
a white-haired woman with an air
of dignity and grace, who
through pools of the intensest
colors climbs the flight of stairs.
I've never seen it,
but I know it's there.



October wrapped up with excellent discussions and lessons on our 6th Principle and the current election. UU kids have lots of opinions and they aren't afraid to share them! And we just had some FUN with the cheesepuff challenge!



Mike Caple with Scout Jenks and Jane Melville



Kelly Palmer



Will & Kelly Palmer, Mike, Lily & Hannah Caple, Anne-Marie Harnett

November will bring conversation about our 3rd Principle and focus on acceptance of other beliefs highlighting Native American Wampanoag culture as Thanksgiving approaches.

Principle of the Month: 3rd Principle

We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

November RE Calendar

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, November 6 | Children's Chapel / Social Action Sunday |
| Sunday, November 13 | One Room Schoolhouse |
| Friday, November 18 | Friday Night RE – 3 rd Principle |
| Sunday, November 20 | Family Service |
| Monday, November 21 | Plymouth Interfaith Thanksgiving Service |
| Sunday, November 27 | Thanksgiving Weekend – Family Service |



friday night re

3rd Principle:

How Do We Accept One Another and Encourage Spiritual Growth in Our Congregation?

Join the discussion

Friday, November 18

First Parish Plymouth, Parish House

6:00 – 7:00 Pot Luck Dinner / 7:00 – 8:00 Religious Education (separate adult and child programs)

For more information contact fplymouthdre@gmail.com

November Sermons

November 6 ELECTION SERVICE

Rev. Ed Hardy

Every four years before the National Election for President, I have given a sermon on the best way to vote. Our forefathers believed it was important to separate church and state—that one shouldn't control the other. They equally thought that the Church should comment on moral questions like abortion, slavery, euthanasia, and wearing bicycle helmets.

Of course, the best way for you to vote is to vote your own conscience. Yet, I might have a word or two to say about the moral milieu we live in today.

November 13 AUCTION SERMON: WHY ARE WE HERE?

Rev. Ed Hardy

At the Annual Auction last year, Amy Palmer had the winning bid on the right to determine the subject of a sermon. Recently, I emailed Amy and asked if she had a subject yet? She said, "I'll get back to you." Then she sent an email, and the subject line said: **Auction Sermon Title**. I opened it up and saw: Why are we here? Wow! That's pretty vast, I thought. Amy wrote below: *I'm thinking of approaching it on three different levels—in church, in Plymouth, in the world. I'm going to write out ideas today and see if it can evolve into something not so large. Something more succinct. I'll be in touch.*"

So now you get to see how Amy's thinking evolves and how I respond to it. **Why Are You Here?**

November 20 WHAT IS ON YOUR THANKSGIVING TABLE THAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR?

Growing up, one of the things I was always grateful for on the Thanksgiving and Christmas table was oranges. Oranges rarely made it to our table, and they seemed such a special treat. Now, many nights an orange or two are my after dinner snack. That special allure is gone out of them; any day I can go to the supermarket and get an orange. But there are other things I am grateful for.



November 21 THANKSGIVING SERVICE MONDAY EVENING BEFORE THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Service: How Did We Get Here?

Plymouth Area Interfaith Clergy Association

Rabbi Lawrence M. Silverman, Congregation Beth Jacob

Our guest speaker this year will be Rabbi Lawrence M. Silverman, lead educator and Spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Jacob Plymouth, Massachusetts. Rabbi Silverman graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University; earned his MA at University of Toronto; and advanced studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish institute of Religion and special studies at Harvard Divinity School and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Did your ancestors come on the Mayflower? Did they come by kayak across the Bering Strait? Did they come on a slave ship? Did they come to escape the potato famine? Or to find the streets lined with gold? Did your ancestors come on a steamer to Ellis Island? Or on a rubber tire tube from Cuba? Aren't you glad you are here?

November 27 Worship Committee

Coffee Hour Hosts for October



November 6	Rick McDonald, Jan Palmer-Tarbox, Charles Tarbox
November 13	Dell and John Hammond, Diane Stillman
November 20	Linda Harding, Tammy Hewlitt, Debbie Marshall
November 27	Anne-Marie Harnett, Mary Ann and David Siersdale



Donations
For
COFFEE
are Kindly Appreciated
Thank You!

Coffee Hour is made possible through donations. There will be a basket for donations during Coffee Hour.

Kerry Considine is the coordinator for Fellowship Hosts and will mail 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. If you have any questions, Kerry can be reached at khcgarden@msn.com.



SUNDAY GREETERS

GREETERS FOR OCTOBER WERE PATRICIA DEVINE AND BOB VINSON
GREETER FOR NOVEMBER IS SIBEL KARCHNER



*Welcoming our visitors with warmth and sincerity
in our hearts and souls.*

THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING PEOPLE TO FIRST PARISH



The Worship & Music Committee has recommended a candidate for Music Director to the Parish Committee. After working out the details, we look forward to welcoming Sandi Hammond as our new Music Director.

Welcome aboard Sandi!

November

Friends of First Parish Meetinghouse

Wednesday, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
9:30 am, Parish House

***Buddhist Meditation**

*Please Note Buddhist Meditation has been cancelled until further notice

Singing Meditation

Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 pm
Parish House Parlor

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 5 & 19
9:00 am, T-Bones, Plymouth Center

Parish Committee

Monday, November 7, 7:00 pm
Parish House

Hospice Choir

Wednesday, November 9, 16, 23, 30
7:00 pm, Parlor

Worship & Music Committee

Tuesday, November 15
7:30 pm, Parish House

Friday Night RE ~ 3rd Principle

Friday, November 18, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Parish House

Building & Grounds Committee

Sunday, November 20
8:30 am, Parish House

Food Collection Sunday

Sunday, November 20
During Worship

Persephone's Daughter's Concert

Sunday, November 20, 3:00 pm
First Parish Plymouth Meetinghouse

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 21, 7:00 pm
First Parish Plymouth

**** Women's Breakfast ****

** Because of the holidays, we will be meeting on **
Saturday, December 3, 9:00 am at IHOP, Exit 5, Plymouth
All Are Welcome!

The Deleading is Complete!

We are excited to announce that the de-leading and exterior painting of the Parish House has been completed! The total cost came in under \$56,000. Thank you to everyone who helped initiate this project and keep it going! And thank you to the Congregation for your support. -- Anne-Marie Harnett, President, Parish Committee

During the painting, the contractors befriended a young squirrel named "Rocky."



They captured him and set him free way up in Burial Hill, but he returned to First Parish!

A Message from SCRIP

Great Moments in
Presidential Curiously
Compelling Quotations

Facts are
stupid things.



SCRIP Cards will be available during
Coffee Hour or you can contact Amy
Palmer at apdpalmer@comcast.net

Food Collection Sunday, November 20 Just in time for Thanksgiving!



Give Thanks by Helping Others.

**The Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse
is always in need of food staples,
personal products and cleaning
products, especially during the
Holidays.**

**Thanks to all who participate in this
important community project.**

IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS!



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR LOVED ONES. PLEASE CONTACT AMY WHO WILL WORK WITH YOU ON GETTING JUST THE RIGHT CARDS. SHE'LL BE YOUR OWN PERSONAL SCRIP CARD SHOPPER! AN ORDER WILL BE PLACED AT THE END OF NOVEMBER.



Save the Date!

The Second Annual 'Oh Come All Ye Ladles!' Soup Contest will be held in Kendall Hall on December 11th after the Sunday service. Last year, we had about 15 entrees with participants eating diligently to try each and every soup- what dedication! More details to follow!



TOUR SEASON WRAP-UP

Our Tour Season is Officially Over until Spring

The tour season for 2016 has ended. We made it through another year! We did it with style, grace, humor, the exchange of a lot of information, and a lot of fun!

On behalf of the Friends of First Parish Meetinghouse Tour Committee, we want to thank all of our tour guides:

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Jack Barwis
Peter Dudensing
Bonney Dyer
Larry Erickson
Nancy Eriksson
Marion Galvin
Dell & John Hammond
Chris Lennon

Deborah Matthews
Rick McDonald
Jan Palmer-Tarbox
Valerie Peck
Donna Petrangelo
Julia Rose
Joyce Stewart
Nancy Whitehouse

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All of these wonderful people gave up some of their valuable free time to volunteer for us during this past season. They do a remarkable job, and we are very grateful to them all.

A special Shout-Out to Rev. Ed Hardy and Jeanne McKinney for everything they have done to make our job that much easier.



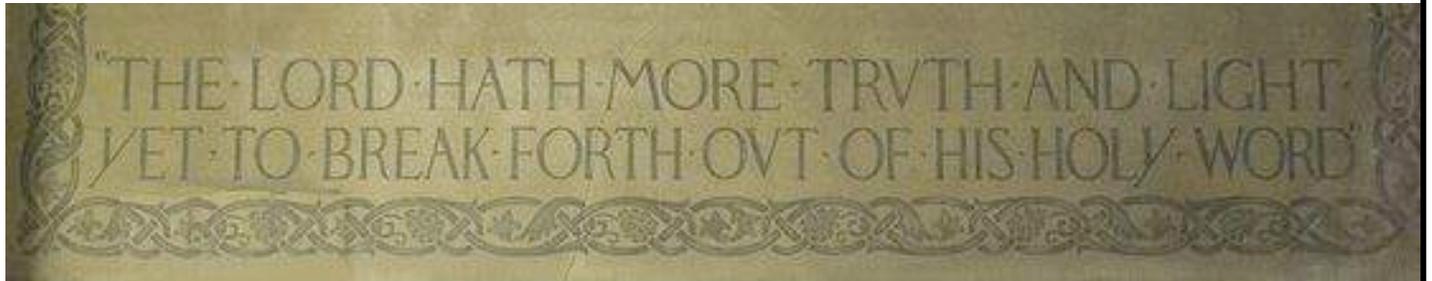
Tours will continue through the fall and winter, by appointment. You can call the office at (508) 747-1606 or email us at info@friendsfirstparishmeetinghouse.org.



Canine Tours by Appointment Only

◀ On Saturday, October 8, we had a very nice group of kids from a church group in New York City that came in to take a tour of First Parish.

A Tidbit about our Famous Meetinghouse
Brought to you by
Friends of First Parish Meetinghouse
Stenciling on front wall of Meetinghouse



On the sanctuary's left wall, stenciled grape vines, symbolizing the true religion, surround the words of Pastor Robinson: *"The Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy word."* Words from John Robinson's sermon before the Separatists left Holland in 1620.

Former First Parish minister, George N. Marshall, feels that Robinson's words reflect the Separatists' belief in *"continuing revelation at a time when everywhere one found truth prescribed by the past. The Pilgrims never closed the door."* Marshall further argues that *"the Pilgrims followed the liberal tradition of their first pastor, John Robinson They allowed differences of theological opinion to exist, so long as moral conduct was maintained. They permitted ministers to vary in the administration of the sacraments, so long as there were clergymen to minister to those of different convictions. They asked ministers to agree to honor the contrary religious practices of members of the congregation."*

With Love and Appreciation



Peter Dudensing was somehow able to fill the gap left behind by Niles Brandon. Peter set himself down at the piano and always had the right song for the right occasion. He took over the weddings we had queued up, much to the delight of each bride.

He joined the tour crew and started giving tours of the Meetinghouse on Fridays and Saturdays. And, being the type of person that Peter is, he could not walk by the church if people were standing there without offering them a personal tour.

The only problem with this is that once you open those magnificent sliding doors, people just keep coming in, so a brief tour often turned into 2 hours of guided tours.

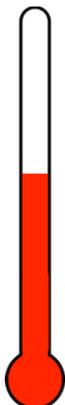
So it is with great appreciation that we thank Peter for filling those big shoes left behind by Niles and as Rev. Ed would say, *"And then some."*



Things are Really Heating Up!

Our Goal: \$11,310

As of October 24: \$6,666



Hearts Aglow

Heating Up

Stoking the Fire

Pilot Light Lit

At the Annual Meeting of First Parish on June 26, 2016, the following measure was adopted:

All members are respectfully requested to make an additional donation of \$174 to help balance the 2016-2017 operating budget.

To date, 34 members have contributed. The hope and expectation is for 100% participation from our members by June 30, 2017. As you can see, we are more than half way to our goal!!

This contribution can be made in installments over time or in a single payment of \$174 *per member*. Please mark you check as "One Time Donation" in the memo line.

Thank you for your support of First Parish!
~Conley Pierce, Treasurer



*Special Get Well Wishes to
Conley Pierce and
Charles Tarbox*

Overnights of Hospitality



Similar to last year, we will have a group of friends and members preparing meals for the homeless. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Church Office at 508-747-1606 or office@firstparishplymouthuu.org or Patricia Devine at pdevinexx@comcast.net.

Great job, Ken Stone and Volunteers!



Town Meeting approved a bylaw that will prohibit T-shirt style, disposable plastic bags from supermarkets, department stores and chain stores. Our community is now environmentally friendly because of all your hard work.



For the complete article, please go to:

<http://plymouth.wickedlocal.com/news/20161018/bag-ban-approved-in-plymouth>

October Appreciations

Kim Caple - for all the things being done for Religious Education, Friday Night RE, all while accommodating the preschool in the basement and the home schoolers upstairs. Lots of balls to juggle and keep in the air!

Ron Clarke - (It's hard to know where to start with Ron) for all the effort put into getting a new custodian and for getting all the supplies and equipment needed; for dealing with the all of the things that can possibly happen in two old buildings ... toilets that overflow, sensors that aren't working, alarms that aren't working, doors that don't slide, and lights that don't light inside and out ... thank you Ron!

Kerry Considine - for cleaning and organizing the kitchen.

Patricia Devine - for helping rid the church of junque and helping with the overnights.

Peter Dudensing - for coming in the evening to welcome a UU Youth Group from Minnesota and giving them a tour of the church.

Anne-Marie Harnett for tying up all the loose ends for the completion of the deleading process and for dealing with all the emergencies as they arose.

Rick McDonald - for all the little things he does to help to make things happen and run smoothly around here. Don't know what we'd do without him.

Amy Palmer - for all her work with SCRIP cards, Overnights, Soup Contest, and even offering personal shopping for Holiday SCRIP customers!

Conley Pierce - for painting numbers on parish house, removing overgrown bushes and even now as he recovers from surgery, still emailing and helping with all the things going on here.

Deborah Rudolf - for being a large presence here lately and helping with so many different things.

Linda Harding - for all her work on Worship & Music Committee - a busy committee lately.

Bob Vinson - for helping rid the parish house of junque and bringing it to savers

Dianne Zolla - for going to Town Hall and arranging to get the Health Inspector come and inspect the kitchen.

Thank you Lay Leaders



Linda Harding did a service on Bread and Roses Movement, accompanied by Peter Dudensing



Chris Lennon led our service on John Lennon (and no, they are not related)

PERSEPHONE'S DAUGHTERS PRESENTS
STARRY NIGHT

Sunday, November 20, 3:00 p.m.
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church Plymouth



“In a world turned upside-down, where everything was wrong, bizarre, you could at least look up at the sky and see normality. Stars that shone regardless of who won a civil war, or who should or should not be a president. Their light was millions of years old.”

~Alec Scarrow **“The Eternal War”**

Persephone’s Daughters will celebrate the constancy of stars through songs and readings when it performs **“Starry Night.”**

The concert will include a wide range of familiar songs: *“Bright Morning Star,” “Starry, Starry Night,” “Catch a Falling Star,” “Walking After Midnight,” “Don’t Fence Me In,” “I’ve Told Every Little Star,” “Watch the Stars”* to name a few. The musical offerings will be intertwined with brilliant, uplifting readings. Concert goers will leave with their souls nourished and their hearts aglow.

Persephone’s Daughters performs two major concerts each year. The proceeds from the fall concert go to organizations that foster healing, world peace and social justice. The proceeds from the Spring Concert go to First Parish in Plymouth in return for rehearsal and concert space. The proceeds of this fall concert will go to Learn to Cope Inc.



This 12-year-old nonprofit organization is a peer support network for families dealing with opioid addiction. There are 24 chapters throughout Massachusetts. The local chapter meets at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Plymouth. For further information visit www.Learn2Cope.Org.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students.
For more information call 508-747-0212.

Garden Party



On October 16th many people wandered over to the raised garden bed that Matt Rowell made as an Eagle Scout Project.



Look for an update in the spring when the first crop has been planted.

Another Christmas Alternative: Heifer's Living Gift Market



Did you know that Americans spend \$465 billion a year on holiday gifts? Just imagine how much a difference we could make in fighting hunger and poverty this holiday season if just a fraction of this money went to purchasing training and livestock that helped families become self-reliant! Heifer's Living Gift Market (www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/faith-communities/host-a-living-gift-market.html) is a fun and meaningful way to promote alternative gift giving, reduce holiday waste and help change the world. Please email me if you are interested in hosting a Heifer representative this holiday season.

Kate Sheehan, Community Engagement Manager
Kate.sheehan@heifer.org

Classified Section

I am a senior aviation / aerospace professional from Montreal and long-time Unitarian Universalist. I am looking to rent a furnished room and / or share a home in the greater Plymouth area beginning as soon as possible. I will be working for Cape Cod Community College at the Plymouth Municipal Airport and typically traveling back to Montreal every other weekend & holidays. If at all possible, my preference is to find a residence with a fellow UU / UU family. I can best be reached at smackiewicz917@gmail.com or 301-332-0181. Thank you for your consideration. – Stan Mackiewicz

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



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

*Welcome to First Parish Unitarian Universalist
1606 - 2016*