

TOP OF THE SQUARE SEPTEMBER, 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

Ingathering

Sunday, September 11, 10:00 am



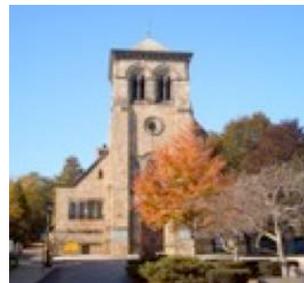
This is the beginning of our church year when we regather.
We welcome old and new friends.

We gather to renew our promise to each other that we abide by our
principles and hold each other with respect and love.

We invite everyone to bring about a third of a cup of water from:
a place you went to on vacation, the place where you swim,
a river you kayaked, or the spring near the top of Mount
Madnadnock, some secret sacred place, or your tap at home.
If you forget—we'll use some water from the church.

*Ingathering Sunday:
Greeting, Singing
Some Coffee*

And our Special "One Finger Blessing" by the Children.



Minister

Reverend Ed Hardy

Director of Religious Education

Kim Caple

Director of Music Emerita

Lynne Wilkinson

Pianist

Peter Dudensing

Parish Committee: President

Anne-Marie Harnett

Treasurer

Conley Pierce

Clerk

Deborah Rudolf

Member at Large

Chris Lennon

**WHO IS GUARDING THE
CHURCH?**

AND WHY?



**FOR THE ANSWER, PLEASE SEE
PAGE 11.**

**BUT ONLY AFTER READING
PAGES 2-10.**

A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

BY REVEREND ED HARDY

In the second paragraph of the United States Constitution, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "All men are created equal." At the time Jefferson owned about 200 slaves. Was Jefferson lying? Or was Jefferson telling the truth from the perspective of a white male land owner—from the perspective we might call today the "power elite"? What about women? Were they created equal? They were not, at least, not by Jefferson's truth. It would take another 144 years before women's lives mattered; before they attained the right to vote. And yet, would we say women have equitable rights with men today? Do their lives matter? Amazingly today almost 40% of married working women earn more than their husband. Also, women today make up almost 60% of the United States college students and earn the majority of doctorates and master's degrees. Doesn't that mean women have earned equity? Are created equal?

Apparently not.

A Time Magazine article March 2012 states that "some academics and women's rights advocates" warn against declaring victory for women workers. It then cites two telling figures. The first is that the wage gap persists overall between women working full time and men working full time: women earn a median weekly wage that's only 81% of a man's weekly median wage. And even more importantly the percentage of managers who are women has risen from 35% to only 38% in the last twenty years." (underlining mine)

The Time Magazine article continued *"In 2011, women ran only 12 of the Fortune 500 companies.*

In 2010, women made up 31.5% of all lawyers but were only 19.5% of partners in U.S. law firms. Additionally, 11% of the largest law firms in the U.S. had no women on their governing committees.

No state has ever achieved federal or state judgeships gender equality. Women held only 23% of all federal judgeships and only 27% of state judgeships in 2010. In its 220-year history, only four women justices have served on the Supreme Court although we currently have the all-time high of three justices out of nine. Today in the 112th Congress women hold 17 Senate seats out of 100 and hold 92 out of 435 House seats."

We have never had a woman President. We have now crossed a barrier and have a woman, Hillary Clinton, running for president of the United States.

Who is living the dream and who is living the lie? Have women gained full equity with men?

Apparently Not.

Would we want to continue down the chain of inequities in America?

What about Black lives? Do Black lives matter?

Apparently not. If I have to explain why and how Black Lives are less valued and less respected you have been out of America for some time or your television is on the fritz, or you can't afford internet access.

Who is living the dream and who is living the lie?

How about Gays, Bisexuals, Lesbians, Transgenders and Queers? Do their lives matter?

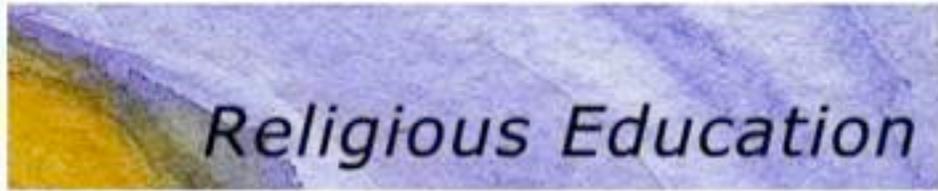
Apparently not. Who is living the dream and who is living the lie?

So many are living the lie. So few living the dream.

Do we have a newer truth than Jefferson? Would our rewritten constitution be truer?

I wonder why we maintain Jefferson's flawed document?

Let's make America great again—let's update our National Documents for today's truth.



Welcome Back to RE!



We are eager to begin a new year of Religious Education! There are some exciting changes coming this year. The RE classrooms will look a bit different with our new space partnership, the addition of Friday night RE, adult RE, and more. Stay tuned for more information. Please see the calendar for September RE events. We look forward to seeing you all very soon. Enjoy the final days of Summer!

September 2016

Sunday, September 11 - Water Communion Sunday - Intergenerational Service

Sunday, September 18 - Religious Education - Registration

Sunday, September 25 - Religious Education - Registration

Religious Education Summer Social Action Project



Left to Right: Lily Caple, Callie Smith, Hannah Caple
Brayden Coyne, Eran Coyne, Nathan Smith
Madelyn Coyne and Dianne Zolla



Just some of the food collected for this program

The RE Program and friends helped to plan and implement the Head Start Backpack Program for seven weeks this summer. We had many families participate by assisting with the food drive as well as counting, packing, and delivering 40 bags per week to Head Start. This program was a huge success thanks to all of the volunteers. It made a difference on so many levels.

We should be so proud!

September Sermons

September 4 Worship Committee

September 11 Water Ceremony Rev. Ed Hardy

This is our traditional service of return after a summer of rest and communing with nature, visiting friends, going on vacation, etc.

We invite everyone to bring some water (half a cup is plenty) from a place they might have visited this summer, from a special body of water for you, from where you swim, from where you watch sunrises or sunsets, or water from you tap in the kitchen—what could be more Holy than the source of your daily water? Don't worry we'll have some virtual water too.

September 18 I Wonder if We Would Be a Beloved Community? Rev. Ed Hardy

We certainly are a warm, friendly community. We are an official Welcoming Community to Gays, Lesbians, Bi-Sexual, Trans-gender, Queer congregation. But are we a Beloved community?

The term "Beloved Community" was coined by the early twentieth-century American philosopher Josiah Royce (1855-1916). But most of us learned it not from Royce but from The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who often spoke of the "Beloved Community" as his ultimate goal.

Dr. King defined Beloved Community "In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, international disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power. Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict."

Is this the Beloved Community we want? Or using Dr. King's model do we want to have a Unitarian Universalist vision of a Beloved Community?

September 25 Don't Be Left Holding the Bag Ken Stone and Rev. Ed Hardy

The petition is before the Selectman of Plymouth to eliminate the "one use plastic bag." Now is the time to take a stand individually and as a congregation. This is a social justice issue, an environment issue, a conservation issue, an energy issue and a moral issue. Ken Stone has spent many hours speaking in Plymouth and surrounding towns, speaking on Cape Cod, speaking with other environmentalists. Ken has also met with public officials, sent letters, stood at tables gathering signatures and now he wants our support.



FROM THE UUA

This fall, the story of Martha and Waitstill Sharp (a young Unitarian Minister) and their secret rescue missions in Nazi-occupied Europe will be told in [Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War](#), a documentary by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky, the Sharps' grandson. The documentary airs on PBS stations on September 20. A [companion book](#) from Beacon Press will be available on September 6. Unitarian Universalists across the country today are fighting Islamophobia and religious intolerance, modern-day reflections of the evils

opposed by Waitstill and Martha Sharp. I call upon all communities of faith and conscience to join in defying religious intolerance and bigotry. So, I ask you: Will you answer the call? Will you carry on the Sharps' living legacy by promoting interfaith justice in the face of anti-Muslim bias and the refugee crisis? Please answer the call.

In faith, Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA

Coffee Hour Hosts for September



September 4	Jean Oertel, Amy Palmer, Alex Pinkerson
September 11	Katy Archibald, Valerie Peck, Conley Pierce
September 18	Sharon & Ron Clarke, Linda Perry
September 25	Kerry Considine, Tammy Hewlitt, Debbie Marshall



Coffee Hour is made possible through donations, and donations are greatly appreciated. There is a basket for donations during Coffee Hour.

Kerry Considine is the coordinator for Fellowship Hosts and will now be 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. If you have any questions, Kerry can be reached at khcgarden1@msn.com.

September 2016 Calendar

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 3 & 17
9:00 am, T-Bones, Plymouth Center

Restoration

Wednesday, September 7, 14, 21 & 28
9:30 am, Parish House

Buddhist Meditation

Wednesday, September 7, 14, 21 & 28
9:00 pm, Parish House

Singing Meditation

Wednesday, September 7
7:00 pm, Parlor

Parish Committee

Monday, September 12, 7:00 pm
Parish House

Hospice Choir

Wednesday, September 14, 21 & 28
7:00 pm, Parlor

Building & Grounds Committee

Sunday, September 18
8:30 am, Parish House

Food Collection Sunday

Sunday, September 18
During Worship

Worship & Music Committee

Tuesday, September 20
7:30 pm, Parish House

Women's Breakfast

Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am
Kevin's Clubhouse, 265 S. Meadow Rd.

A Message from SCRIP

Things money can't buy

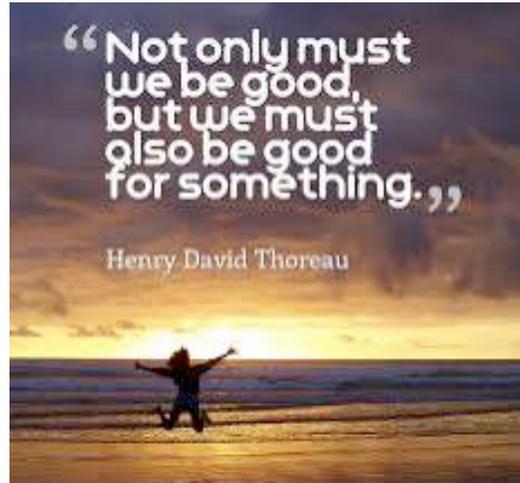
1. Manners
2. Morals
3. Respect
4. Character
5. Common sense
6. Trust
7. Patience
8. Class
9. Integrity
10. Love



But it can buy Scrips Cards.

See Amy or Val to get yours.

Food Collection Sunday, September 18



Food Collection Sunday is the third Sunday of the month and will be headed up again this year by Kerry Considine. The Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse is always in need of food staples, personal products and cleaning products.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU



Sadie Perlow, Dianne Zolla and Val Peck



Our bake sale on Saturday, August 6th was a great success!! We raised \$340 to close the gap in our 2015-16 budget!

A very special thanks to Ann Marie Schulze for her help setting up as well as Jean Oertel, Val Peck and Marion Galvin for helping 'man' the table.



Our variety of treats wowed all with so many delicious choices!! Patti Devine's presentation was stupendous and Dianne Brosnan's Oatmeal Cookies drew renowned praise!!!

It was a profitable and fun filled day THANK YOU to all who took the time to contribute... it is truly appreciated!

Dianne Zolla

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Thank you's So many Thank You's

★*Kim Capel* ~ for all the cleaning and re-arranging and heavy lifting on very hot days preparing the space to accommodate our new tenant in the Parish House.



★*Kevnette "Kerry" Considine* ~ for stepping up to fill the void left behind when Sandi Pierce stepped down after many years of heading up Coffee Hour. Kerry also took up the Food Collection for the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse after Amy Palmer's many years of leadership.



★*Bonney Dyer* ~ for giving tours on a moment's notice when a tourist would call. Since we have put our phone number in the wayside pulpit, many people call requesting a tour. And if there's someone in the office, we open up the church for them. We thank Boney for imparting her knowledge to people 'off the street.'



★*Peter Dudensing* ~ for picking up where Niles left off and for picking up after Niles. Niles left behind a large musical gap as well as a large pile of stuff. In addition to playing on Sundays, Peter also filled in for our summer weddings. He also brought all the hymnals back to the church from Brewster Chapel, making many trips from the Chapel to the Meetinghouse.



★*Anne-Marie Harnett* ~ for spending countless days here this summer cleaning, meeting with the tenants, meeting with contractors, and taking care of all the details needed to make the transition happen for our new tenants in the Parish House.



★*Rick McDonald* ~ for so very many things. Rick stepped in and did the Order of Service when Jeanne was out of the office in August. He also spent a hot day in the Meetinghouse with Josh Probert, a historian from Utah who is doing research on Louis C. Tiffany and the Tiffany Studios and their relationship with churches. His dissertation was on Tiffany, and he is expanding that into two books. Just as Josh was finishing up, two historians arrived from Washington, D.C. who were both very familiar with Hartwell & Richardson architecture and were delighted to find the church open and someone to talk to.

★*Jean Oertel*, ★*Val Peck* and ★*Marion Galvin* for pitching in to help with the Bake Sale.



★*Jan Palmer-Tarbox* ~ for spending a very hot evening at the church with the Jenney Museum for their Pilgrim's Progress and "Celebrate Freedom" program in our historic church - the perfect place for this program. People from as far away as Pennsylvania dressed as pilgrims and processed through the town with a police escort providing lots of interest in our church and our history.

★*Anne Marie Schulze* ~ for coming to help set up the Bake Sale. Some people seem to know just what you need when you need it.

★*Jim Schulze* ~ for spending several hot summer days cleaning out the basement and for hauling stuff to Savers and the dump, and donating the charge to dispose of all the accumulated junk in the basement.

★*Dianne Zolla* - for coming up with the idea to have a bake sale to raise funds to close our budget gap and for seeing it through from start to finish.

A heartfelt thank you to all of these people for volunteering their time to First Parish. If you know of something that we've missed, or catch someone in the act of helping out, please let the church office know.

TOUR SEASON GOES THROUGH OCTOBER

Volunteers Needed

- Do you have a little extra time each week?
- Would you like to learn more about our Meetinghouse?
- Would you like to make some new friends?
- Do you like to meet new people from all over the country and the world?

If you have 2-1/2 hours that you can spare on Friday or Saturday, First Parish Tours could use your help.

We would like to be able to keep the Meetinghouse open on Fridays and Saturdays. (It's actually a requirement of the Community Preservation Committee that funded the restoration of our stained glass windows that we open the Meetinghouse to the public.)

And it's important to bring as many folks as possible into the Meetinghouse to view its windows and exquisite architecture.

I would love to talk with you about our tours, if you think you may be able to help in any way. It doesn't have to be an every week commitment. Every other week or once a month would also work. Call me at 508-747-2552, email me at ctarbox38@comcast.net, or speak with me at coffee hour.

Jan Palmer-Tarbox

A Tidbit about our Famous Meetinghouse
Brought to you by
Friends of First Parish Meetinghouse

Restoration of the John Robinson Stained Glass Window



Facing Plymouth Harbor, the Sanctuary's three front windows, John Robinson Blessing the Pilgrims on their Departure from Delftshaven, depict the Separatists' Minister blessing those Separatists who kneel on board the Speedwell prior to their departure from Holland.



The Robinson Window being carefully removed.



Ben Brewster, Leighton Price and Shirley Forsman with Roberto Rosa at Serpentino Studio



Charles Tarbox and Dorothy Price with Roberto



Roberto with Dorothy Price, Jan Palmer-Tarbox and Julia Rose

Summer Worship

We would like to thank the following people who kept the rhythm of our worship services during the summer:



**Rev. Ed Hardy
Rev. Dr. Judith Campbell
Vaughn Keller
Jenn Kanze-Easton and Chuck Eaton
Amy Palmer**



Judy Campbell's sermon, "The Man in the Baseball Cap Praising Jesus" was on judging individuals by their appearance.



Vaughn Keller's topic was on the nature of freedom and truth.



Deborah Rudolf and Peter Dudensing singing, "What a Wonderful World."



Dianne Brosnan, Shirley Forsman and Fatina Barclay looking like summer



Elaine Ryan, back from Wales with Rev. Ed



Elaine with Deborah leading us in Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind."



Rev. Kate Wilkinson brought to us 'virtually' by Amy Palmer

Celebrate Freedom



To celebrate those events and people who fought to preserve the freedom we have today!

Presented by the Jenney Museum & Plymouth Rock Foundation

This event ran from Thursday, August 18th through Saturday, August 20th in Boston and Plymouth, and First Parish Plymouth was the site for the event on Friday, August 19th. There was a Pilgrim Progress Reenactment, and people from as far away as Pennsylvania came to Plymouth, dressed as Pilgrims, and processed from Plymouth Rock to Burial Hill with a police escort.

Following the Process, there was a program in our Meetinghouse to "Celebrate the Beginning of America" with over 80 people participating.

Jan Palmer-Tarbox was our resident historian that night and was on hand to answer questions.



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



***“I love September, especially
when we’re in it.”***

~Willie Stargell

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

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