

TOP OF THE SQUARE NOVEMBER, 2017 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.

SOUPER SUNDAY



Sunday, November 19
Following Worship Service

Not only will we be once again enjoying each other's culinary delights, we will also be celebrating Rev. Ed's time with us at First Parish.



Bring your finest soup, your appetite, and a message for Ed to take with him as he enters his retirement.

Don't have a
favorite soup
recipe?



We also need
finger foods
and desserts.

(Marie Lunt's amazing Cuban Tres Leches Cake for the Service Auction)

Please contact the church office if you have any questions.
508-747-1606 / office@firstparishplymouthuu.org

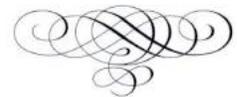


Minister
Reverend Ed Hardy

**Director of
Religious Education**
Kim Caple

Director of Music
Sandi Hammond

**Director of Music
Emerita**
Lynne Wilkinson



Parish Committee:
President
Anne-Marie Harnett

Treasurer
Tammy Marshall-
Hewlitt

Clerk
Deborah Rudolf

Members at Large
Ron Clarke
Patricia Devine



A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY BY REV. ED HARDY

"Then you and I should bid good-bye for a little while?"

"I suppose so, sir."

"And how do people perform that ceremony of parting, Jane? Teach me; I'm not quite up to it."

"They say, Farewell, or any other form they prefer."

"Then say it."

"Farewell, Mr. Rochester, for the present."

"What must I say?"

"The same, if you like, sir."

"Farewell, Miss Eyre, for the present; is that all?"

"Yes."

"It seems stingy, to my notions, and dry, and unfriendly. I should like something else: a little addition to the rite. If one shook hands for instance; but no--that would not content me either. So you'll do nothing more than say Farewell, Jane?"

"It is enough, sir; as much good-will may be conveyed in one hearty word as in many."

"Very likely; but it is blank and cool--'Farewell.'"

— Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre

I want to thank everyone for all the kindness you have extended to me. Thank you for the meals we shared, the conversations, the singing. I thank each for all you have done to make me a better person and your efforts to make First Parish in Plymouth more meaningful. Thank you all.

One of the most difficult aspects of ministry is leaving a congregation. I have dedicated to you my time, talent and treasure for the last four years. New children have come to life and friends have departed. There were tears and laughter, joy and sorrow. All were and are in my heart, and some, are in the deepest recesses where they will remain forever.

Then an even more difficult aspect of saying farewell to a congregation is the Unitarian Universalists Ministers Association rule to not have contact with any congregants for a minimum of two years. No phone calls, no text messages, and no arranged accidental meetings. This seems harsh and hard on the minister and on the congregation. Yet I believe it is the wisdom of the ages.

Last night after the Worship Committee meeting I went down to the ocean and the devilish thought arose in me; I want to jump down to the "Plymouth Rock" and etch into it "UU." Then every time you took a friend or happened to be there for the boat you would look at the "Rock" and think Ed. It was selfish and greedy and I thought better. So instead I went to the ocean's edge and into the wind, rain, and darkness I shouted, "Farewell, First Parish, Farewell!"

If you listen carefully anytime you go to the ocean you might hear the ocean whisper back, "farewell." And you could say, "farewell."

May the sun shine in your hearts, Ed



Do You Have a Farewell Message for Ed?

Please bring it to Souper Sunday on November 19th as we celebrate Ed's time with us at First Parish.



Religious Education



Sunday, November 19

When it feels as though we're living in a time of scarcity, how can we act from a place of abundance? This service relates a familiar story, introducing two strangers who coax an entire village into realizing the power of sharing and giving. It also encourages the congregation to be aware of opportunities to notice grace and practice random acts of kindness.

Please bring canned goods for donation to the food pantry to this special service.

Soup Contest Info – Amy Palmer?

October in RE

First Parish Religious Education Students Give Back

First Parish RE Students held a brainstorming session to determine our social action projects for the year. The students had great ideas. Helping with hurricane relief, Heifer Project, beach clean up, recycling, and working with the Whale and Dolphin Conservancy topped the list. We are excited to get started and take action!



Following the October theme of Healing, students studied healing UU hero, Clara Barton, and her role in founding the American Red Cross. They also learned some basic first aid skills.



Healing ourselves when we need to is important too. Students made "calm down" jars after trying their hand at meditation.

OWL IS SOARING!



The OWL Program is in week 5 of the 25-week program. We have 15 eager and enthusiastic students registered. They are an amazing group of kids.

Thank you to Amy Palmer and Chris Lennon for taking on this huge undertaking.

THE THEME FOR NOVEMBER IS 'STORY'

November 5 **Some of My Favorite Buddhist stories** **Rev. Ed Hardy**

At last year's auction, Julia Rose won the right to determine a sermon topic. At our lunch to talk over the subject, she asked that I preach on Buddhism. This is a rich and vast request. So I thought I would tell some of my favorite stories.

November 12 **Music Sunday** **Music Director, Sandi Hammond & First Parish Choir**

Music is an integral part of worship. This year's service is centered around musical expression as a form of worship. The First Parish Choir and other congregant musicians will share their passion for music with us. If you have some music you would like to share as part of this service, or a relevant reading or poem, please email our Choir Director, Sandi Hammond at sandihammond6@gmail.com. ALL ARE WELCOME TO BE A PART OF THIS SERVICE!

November 19 **Souper Sunday & Farewell to Rev. Ed** **Kim and Kids**

Rev Ed Hardy—Story for All Ages

This Sunday will be a celebration where we break bread with Rev. Ed as he enters his retirement. Our Religious Education will perform the Stone Soup skit; our many, fine cooks will be preparing their best soups; maybe a cake ... or two ... and a time for us to thank Ed for his time with us.

November 26 **The Old Man Who Made Withered Trees Flower** **Rev. Ed Hardy**

Do the elderly have fairy tales? Apparently, the Japanese do. How do fairy tales help the elderly? Are there fairy tales for the end of childhood? The end of adulthood? The end of a job?



**Waiter: How would you like your alphabet soup ...
Helvetica, Courier Bold or Comic Sans?**



Rev. Ed Hardy and Gene Pickett

An Old Friend

On Saturday, October 14th, Rev. Ed had the privilege of speaking at the Memorial Service for Helen R. Pickett, wife of former UUA President, O. Eugene Pickett.

Gene became president of the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1979 and helped facilitate the rewriting of the Unitarian Universalist Principles. He thought that a common set of beliefs was important for the well-being of the religion. He was also responsible for the UUA's first major capital campaign called *Visions for Growth* and the creation of Friends of the UUA.

In 1986, Helen joined the UUA staff and was appointed to the UUA's Hymnbook Commission. This six-year project produced "*Singing the Living Tradition*" hymnal, the grey hymnal we currently use. Helen also wrote Hymn #309, "*Earth Is Our Homeland.*"

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 4 & 18, 9:00 am
T-Bones, Plymouth Center

CHOIR PRACTICE

Sunday, November 5, 12, 19, 26
8:45 am, Meetinghouse

Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 pm
Brewster Chapel

PARISH COMMITTEE

Monday, November 6, 7:00 pm, Parish House

FRIENDS OF FIRST PARISH

*Wednesday, November 8, 9:30 am
Parish House

*For the months of November and December they will be meeting once a month on the 2nd Wednesday.

LGBTQA+ OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday, November 10, 7:00 pm
Kendall Hall

MUSIC SUNDAY!

Sunday, November 12, 10:00 am
Meetinghouse

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 pm
Parish House

SOUPER SUNDAY & FAREWELL TO ED

Sunday, November 19
Following Worship Service



PERSEPHONE'S DAUGHTERS CONCERT

Sunday, November 19, 3:00 pm
Meetinghouse

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Monday, November 20, 7:00 pm
Church of the Pilgrimage

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 25, 9:00 am
Friendly's, Exit 5, Plymouth



Coffee Fellowship

Hosts for November

November 5

Linda Harding, Ken Stone,
Shelley-Jo Talvacchia

November 12

Rick McDonald, Jean Oertel,
Jan Palmer-Tarbox

November 19

Debbie & Tammy Marshall-Hewlitt,
Diane Stillman

November 26

Marion Galvin, Nancy Hinchey,
Meghan Snee

THANK YOU!



We meet for rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 8:45 in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join us.

We will also be rehearsing in Brewster Chapel on Tuesday evening at 7:30 on November 14.



Music Sunday is November 12th!

If you have some music you would like to share as part of this service, or a relevant reading or poem, please email Sandi.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS

If any of you would like a mini voice lesson with me to assess range, pitch matching, sight-reading, or any other kind of feedback to help build your confidence and skills, just let me know, and we can schedule something.

UU's BEING UU's



"Sometimes I see grass growing in cracks, marvel at the tenacity of nature and let it be. Sometimes I say, 'Oh hell no' and need to pull it." -Shelley-Joe Talvacchia



First Parish Feisty Females, Mary Ann Siersdale, Shirley Forsman and Dianne Brosnan talk to Deborah Rudolf about her campaign for State Senator.



Two First Parish women, Dell Hammond and Shirley Forsman, looking splendid in black and white.



Super UU Kids



Super UU Adults



AnnMarie Schulze answers the call for "all hands on deck" to prepare the buildings for the new church year.



There's lots of ways to get to Sunday Services!

GO GREEN!

A Very Royal Thank You for a Very Royal Member and Tour Guide, Rick McDonald



October 14, 2017

Dear Rick,

Thank you so much for the tour of First Parish Church that you gave to our "Adventurers" (4th & 5th graders) on Saturday, October 17. You helped the kids make connections between the separatists that they met at Plimoth Plantation in the 1600's and Unitarian Universalists of today. Kudos to you for being able to maintain their interest!

Some of the kids didn't make it to church on Sunday after the big weekend, but those that did wanted to express thanks on their own. Really, they had far ore to say than what they wrote, but I think that you'll probably understand.

We hope to see you again with a whole new group of Adventurers in two years. Until then ...

I hope that your days are filled with many blessings,

Lisa Rubin

Director of Religious Education
First Parish in Bedford

To Rick,

Thank you for telling us about the church. I learned a lot!

-Tyler M.

Thank you Rick,

Thank you for showing me your church. It was very interesting. Also, thank you for letting me see your big church.

Love Taelor

Dear Rick,

Thank you for giving us a tour the church.

Dear Rick,

Thank you soooooo much for the tour of First Parish in Plymouth! I found it very interesting! Especially the mystery window! I enjoyed it a lot! I hope you did too!

-Emory

Dear Rick,

Thanks for everything!

-Ryan



A hearty thank you to all these wonderful people who gave tours of our historic meetinghouse giving up their time on Saturdays to do so:
Jack Barwis, Bonney Dyer, Larry Erickson, Rick McDonald, Donna Petrangelo & Julia Rose.

PERSEPHONE'S DAUGHTERS PRESENTS "SOUL WATCH"

Sunday, November 19, 2017, 3p.m.
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
(Top of Town Square) Plymouth, MA

"We see the world piece by piece, as the sun, the moon, the animal, the tree; but the whole, of which these are the shining parts, is in the soul."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson



In this time when tweeting, posturing and "fake news" preside, it is important to look to our inner compass, our souls, to inform our lives. John O'Donohue wrote, *"You can trust this indirect oblique side of yourself. If you do, it will take you where you need to go. But more important, it will teach you a kindness of rhythm in your journey."* Persephone's Daughters will look to the soul's direction when it performs "Soul Watch" at First Parish Church in Plymouth on Sunday, November 19th at 3p.m.

The concert will include a wide range of songs: *"The Storm is Passing Over," "Souls Are Gathered in Freedom,"* Carole King's *"Beautiful," "Wings"* by Little Mix, The Wailin' Jenny's *"Storm Comin'"* and India Arie's *"I Am Light"* to name a few.

Poems such as Mary Oliver's *"Some Questions you Might Ask"* (about the soul) will also be presented. Whether the audience will leave with answers to these questions or with more questions, they will be filled with hope and more important, will be inspired.

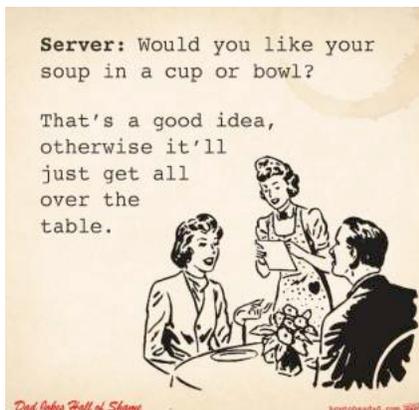


Persephone's Daughters performs two major concerts each year. The proceeds from the fall concert go to organizations that foster healing, world peace and social justice. The proceeds from the Spring Concert go to First Parish in Plymouth in return for rehearsal and concert space. The proceeds of this fall concert will be donated to the Center for Popular Democracy for "Hurricane Maria Community Relief and Recovery Fund."

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students.

For more information call 508-747-0212.

The Center for Popular Democracy works to create equity, opportunity and a dynamic democracy in partnership with high-impact base-building organizations, organizing alliances, and progressive unions. CPD strengthens our collective capacity to envision and win an innovative pro-worker, pro-immigrant, racial and economic justice agenda.



--COMMUNITY AND OTHER UU EVENTS--

THANKSGIVING IN MANY VOICES INTERFAITH SERVICE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 7:00 pm
CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMAGE, TOWN SQUARE, PLYMOUTH



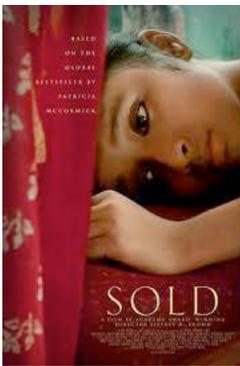
Sponsored by the Plymouth Area
Interfaith Clergy Association

Music by
Persephone's Daughters

Speakers
Barbara Aharoni
Temple Beth Jacob and
Plymouth No Place for Hate

Rev. Dr. Coralotta Darwin
First Baptist Church, Plymouth

Rev. Ed Hardy
First Parish in Plymouth
Unitarian Universalist



SOLD is a narrative, feature film adaptation of the globally acclaimed novel by Patricia McCormick. Based on true stories, **SOLD** is the story of Lakshmi who journeys from a poastoral, rural village in Nepal to a gritty brothel/prison called Happiness House in Kolkata, India. Through one extraordinary girl's story, **SOLD** illustrates the brutality of child trafficking, which affects millions of children around the globe every year. Globally, the average age of a trafficked girl is thirteen, the same age as the girl in the film. **SOLD** is a call to action, and a testament to the power and resilience of the human spirit. We hope **SOLD** will inspire a global movement to address this crime domestically and internationally.

SOLD is directed by Academy and Emmy award-winner, Jeffrey D. Brown, Executive Produced by two-time Academy Award winner, Emma Thompson, Produced by Jane Charles, Co-Produced by Katie Mustard and Written by Joseph Kwong and Jeffrey D. Brown.

First Parish Member, Lydia Robertson, has worked on **SOLD** for 11 years from early volunteer work against human trafficking with her daughter, Charlotte Juergens, and Charlotte's friends through to the promotion of the film after completion and everything in between. It all began in a meeting in 2012, with friend and Oscar winning Director, Jeffrey Brown, concerning the development of the book **SOLD** into a screenplay. What followed is years of fund raising against trafficking and creating videos to raise money to get the movie made, then after the film was shot, to help in the making of the movie documentary and then trailers and promotional videos for the film and anti-trafficking groups that revenues from the film, **SOLD**, supports.

Over the course of Lydia's 30-year career in film and television, she has worn a great many hats of all shapes and sizes. Her efforts as a producer, fundraiser, director, news and documentary film editor, sound editor, audio and video engineer, rock photographer, and lighting designer have resulted in many international and domestic awards, including numerous Emmys and one Oscar.

Aside from **SOLD**, Lydia's most recent projects include Yasuni Man, an award winning documentary concerning the plight of the indigenous people of the Ecuadorian amazon, 79 PARTS, a comedy feature soon to be released, and Sunken Roads, a documentary currently in post-production with of her daughter, Charlotte, also a film director and camera person, in a personal journey to follow World War II Veterans to Normandy for the 70th anniversary, exploring why we have memorials and what they mean to generations of people. Lydia is long time editor and engineer for NBC Network News shows such as Nightly News, Dateline, and the Today Show.

To make a donation to our fund to help survivors in India and Nepal with healing and vocational training:

<http://www.soldthemovie.com/donate/>

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



*The last month of Autumn,
but the beginning of a new
adventure; time to take risks
and do the unexpected.*

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

*Welcome to First Parish Unitarian Universalist
1606 - 2017*