

Dearest Ones,

Once again, I find myself reflecting on the ways in which congregational life mirrors the seasons. March is upon us and with its arrival come the first strong gusts of wind and the promise of new life just around the corner. March is a liminal time; an in-between time; a time of rejoicing in longer and warmer days while also knowing that another storm or blizzard might be just around the corner. Winter isn't quite done yet. Spring isn't here yet; but the hope and promise of Spring *is* in the air. The other day, just before the most recent snowstorm, I saw a row of green leaves beginning to pop from the earth – they were the tips of flowers someone had planted as bulbs long ago. I paused for a bit and felt sad that they were about to be covered by several inches of snow, then realized they would still be there waiting to rise again after the last of the snow melted. I reassured myself that it is natural for the seasons to come and go in smaller spurts of change.

And so it is with congregational life at First Parish, Unitarian. With the most recent annual meeting, we now have an idea of what spring might look like. We envision a future of caring for and regenerating the earth and our spirits in equal measure; living out our faith in action both inside and outside our congregational walls and private homes; honoring our heritage while also trusting in and building for our future. At the same time, winter isn't done yet and the storms of any season are always just around the corner. The recent damage to the church from a burst pipe is one of those winter storms in our congregational life.

We shall hold onto hope while strengthening ourselves with resolve and perseverance. The buds of spring are just beneath the melting snow. The strength of this amazing community of people will hold us together as we move toward the next season.

With deep gratitude for all you do, each and every one of you, in creating and re-creating this beautiful and beloved community of faith we share.

In faith and with love,

Rev. Michelle



CHURCH CALENDAR

Services and Planting Seeds will be held in the Davis Memorial Until Further Notice

Sunday, Mar. 3, 2013

10:00 a.m. ~ "The Ethical Wallet"

with Rev. Michelle

11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Planting Seeds

11:15 ~ Parents of Planting Seeds participants invited to meet with Rev. Michelle

Saturday, Mar. 9, 2013

8:30am to 12:30pm ~Workshop about the Spiritual Growth Center at the UU Church of Marlborough and Hudson. Please contact Rev. Michelle if you have questions or are interested. Registration is required, but it is a free workshop.

6:30 p.m. ~ "Quabbin's Got Talent"
In the Davis Memorial

Sunday, Mar. 10, 2013

10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service with Matt Meyer in the Davis Memorial followed by a drumming workshop at 11:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Planting Seeds

Thursday, Mar. 14, 2013

6:00 p.m. ~Branch Alliance Meeting
In the Davis Memorial

Sunday, Mar. 17, 2013

10:00 a.m ~ "UU Haggadah" with Rev. Michelle. Followed by discussion during social hour

11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Planting Seeds

Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2013

6:30 p.m. Parish Committee Meeting

Sunday, Mar. 24, 2013

10:00 a.m. ~ Peace and Social Action "Stewardship of Petersham and Beyond" with Dr. Larry Buell

Thursday, Mar. 28, 2013

2:30 p.m. ~ Interpreting the Bible
with Rev. Michelle

Sunday, Mar. 31, 2013

10:00 a.m. ~ Easter Service with Rev. Michelle

Sundays, 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Silent meditation in the Davis Memorial. Please note new time.

Choir – We now have a choir! The choir meets at 8:45 a.m. on every 3rd Sunday to rehearse before the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please come join us!

Easter Memorial Plants

It is a long-standing tradition in our church to celebrate Spring by filling the sanctuary with flowering plants for the Easter Sunday Service. If you would like us to buy a plant in memory of a loved one, please contact Barbara Corey or Pam Chevalier before Friday, March 29th, when we will purchase plants and set up the display. The suggested donation is \$10. You may also choose to pick out your own plant, and then bring it to the church on Friday afternoon. The names of remembered loved ones will be included in the Easter Sunday order-of-service.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Barre Players Theater presents "Jesus Christ Superstar" beginning on Friday, March 8. Based on the last seven days of Jesus' life in Roman-occupied Jerusalem, this mesmerizing rock opera illuminates the transcendent power of the human spirit with a passion that goes straight to the heart.

Production Dates are Friday and Saturdays - March 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees - March 10, 17, and 24 at 2:00 p.m. Reservations are recommended. These may be made online on our Web Site at <http://www.barreplayerstheater.com/> or by calling the Box Office at 978-355-2096 or 1-800-733-2096. Group rates are available and may be made by calling our Box Office

Stewardship of Petersham and Beyond

Dr. Larry Buell will present a brief history of the environmentalism in Petersham, the national stewardship movement, and how our community can and must contribute to the "Great Turning" and how we can turn from a consuming society to a regenerative sustainable culture. Larry Buell is a long-time member of the Petersham Unitarian Church and founder and director of Earthlands and the University of the Wild, an alternative higher education curriculum.

Notes from the Parish Committee

The PC has reorganized with Anne Perkins as Chair and Sally Sennott and Philip Hubbard as Co-Secretaries.

Because of recent water damage in the sanctuary, worship services will temporarily be held in the Davis

Memorial.

The newly formed Vision Group will meet shortly to develop a covenant and form a working committee.

Medicine Mammals, a wildlife rehabilitation organization, is seeking used pill bottles and greeting cards for recycling to help support its operation. A station will be set up in Davis Hall.

Water filtration systems at the church and parsonage will be upgraded soon.

The Stewardship Review for the year ending 2011 is now available for perusal. The churches' financial practices are in good order.

Robert Hall, Jr. has resigned as the church webmaster. Many thanks to Bob for his years of service in that capacity.

Planting Seeds Continues!

An ongoing workshop for children based on the "Planting Seeds" curriculum by Thich Nhat Hanh began October 7th. The program invites children ages 5-11 to explore and experience mindfulness, meditation, and movement practices for themselves under the guidance of Christine Word, Jody Bird, and Jeanneane Pugliese. They meet in the Davis Memorial on Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. The program is free and open to all children on a drop-in basis.

Winter

March 3, 10, 17

Spring

April 28

May 5, 12, 19, 26

June 2, 9, 16, 23

Petersham Branch Alliance

The Petersham Branch Alliance is selling *Mrs See's Candy!* Contact any Alliance member to order this fabulous chocolate from San Francisco. This is a money raiser for Scholarships which the Alliance gives to women and girls who want to continue their education.

The next Alliance meeting will be on March 14 at 6 p.m. in the Davis Memorial. The Annual Meeting Luncheon will be at Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre on April 19.

The Annual Plant and Bake Sale will be on June 1.

“Quabbin’s Got Talent”

The 2nd Quabbin’s Got Talent coffeehouse is scheduled for Saturday, March 9th at 6:30 pm in the Davis Memorial Hall located behind the First Congregational Parish, Unitarian on the Common in Petersham, MA. The talent contest is open to all ages, both individuals and groups, in all categories from tap dancing to juggling to singing and performing musical instruments and brief dramatic presentations.

Throughout the series, the competition will be open to the first ten individuals or groups that sign up. Performances will be limited from three to five minutes each. Following an initial judging, three finalists will be chosen and asked to perform one more time to determine the top prize winners. Cash and other prizes will be awarded. According to the rules, competitors can re-enter for any or all of the remaining coffee houses in the series, except for 1st prize winners who will be excluded.

The “Quabbin’s Got Talent” Coffee House is free of charge and open to the public, though donations will be gratefully accepted. *Beverages and snacks will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit the Parsonage Renovation Fund.* Additional dates scheduled include Saturdays, April 6th and May 4th at 6:30 pm.

"This program is sponsored by the First Congregational Church, Unitarian in Petersham and a grant from the Petersham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency."

For further information, or to volunteer as a judge or provide prizes for the event, contact Genevieve Fraser at [\(978\) 544-1872](tel:(978)544-1872), or email FraserGenevieve@gmail.com

Jean Virginia Fawcett Hazzard

Jean Virginia Fawcett Hazzard died peacefully at home on January 22, 2013 in Amherst, MA. She was 97. She was the wife of George W. Hazzard, President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute from 1969 to 1975. Dr. Hazzard died in 1989.

Jean was born in Youngstown, OH on October 18, 1915, the oldest child of Luther T. and Clara Sherwood Fawcett. During her high school years in Youngstown, she played piano and cello with school and city orchestras. She graduated from Lake Erie College near Cleveland in 1937 with a major in organ and earned her MA in psychology from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY in 1939. There she met George Hazzard whom she married in 1940. She and George moved to Ithaca, NY where he

earned a PhD in physics from Cornell, then returned to Canton where George joined the physics faculty and where their children were born. The family moved to Schenectady, NY in 1953, to St. Louis in 1965, then to Worcester in 1969, following the course of George's career. In 1952 Jean and George built a cabin in the Adirondacks on Carry Falls Reservoir and enjoyed many happy days there with their children and, later, their grandchildren.

Jean always kept family at the center of her life. Generosity, optimism and service to others were her guiding lights. When her children were young, she gave piano lessons, played organ, led her church choir and was active in the League of Women Voters. She continued to play piano with great pleasure until a few weeks before her death. After her own children were grown, Jean pursued her career as a school and child psychologist wherever she lived. In Worcester she served on the board of the Child Guidance Association, chaired the Allen Fund of the United Way and was the first woman trustee at Worcester County National Bank. She was a founder of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and the first chair of its Social Service Corporation. She was one of the first women to challenge the Worcester Club's rule that women not enter by the front door. After retirement to Petersham, Jean was active in the First Congregational Parish, Unitarian, and worked with Valuing Our Children in Athol.

Following her husband's death, Jean moved to Applewood in Amherst where she made new friends, served on various committees, and performed piano in Sunday afternoon concerts. In

1998 she married Dorman Priest, an old friend from St. Lawrence days; he joined her at Applewood and they enjoyed their later years together until his death in November 2011.

Jean is survived by three children, Anne Hazzard of Pelham MA, Ruth Hazzard and husband, Claude Tellier, of Amherst MA and Edmund Hazzard and wife, Marian, of Grafton MA; four grandchildren, Emily Hazzard and husband, Stefan Dupont, of Cleveland, OH, Phoebe Hazzard and husband, Stephen Stroud, of Amherst, Ethan Hazzard-Watkins and wife, Anna Patton, of Brattleboro, VT and Jesse Readlynn and wife, Jennifer, of Rochester, NY; four great-grandchildren; two brothers, Sherwood Fawcett and Norman Fawcett, of Columbus, OH and a sister-in-law, Ruth Ann James, of Annapolis, MD. She was predeceased by a son, Jeffrey, Ed's twin, who died at age 2 ½; her sister, Ruth Bosworth, brother-in-law, Robbins Bosworth, and sister-in-law, Virginia Hazzard.

A memorial service will be held on April 6 at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Petersham, MA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of the Fisher Home, 1165 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA or to a charity of your choice that serves children.

Chocolate Auction 2013

The chocolate auction held on Saturday, February 16 was a success in spite of moving the day due to a blizzard the previous Sunday.

We had decent weather and a good attendance. We had three tables of goodies which included cakes, cookies, candy, fudge, fudge sauce, bars, wine, biscotti, whoopee pies, stationary items

and a gorilla. Auctioneer Chip Bull and his able assistant, wife Dale, kept the bidding moving along.

When our cashiers, Marion McCann and Pam Chevalier, tallied up we had made \$730.00.

Thank you all who helped make this one of our most profitable chocolate auctions.

Kay Berry

The Congregation's Developmental Goals:

- **To increase attendance and membership with a diversity of ages**
- **To foster a spirit of reconciliation among all members and friends of the congregation**
- **To provide multigenerational experiences through worship, programs, and activities, sharing our liberal religious traditions and values**
-



YOGA WITH LINDA

Yoga and Chair Yoga will take a break for the winter. Classes will resume in the spring.

Stay warm!

Linda

Newsletter

Material for the newsletter may be emailed to the firstparishnt@verizon.net, or can be placed in the wall file outside the Church office. Please make a note stating that the item is for the newsletter, or you can mail your item to: First Congregational Parish, News Team, P.O. Box 305, Petersham, MA 01366.

Our church newsletter is edited and mailed by volunteers. We are always happy and grateful to receive contributions towards the expenses of paper, printing and mailing, as well as general news and news of families.

Thank You,
The Newsletter Team,
Kay Berry
Don Eaton
Robert Hall
Kathy Ballou ~ Editor

We're on **Facebook!** "Like" us at:
First Congregational Parish, Unitarian in
Petersham.

Now that we are well into the 21st century, we would like to consider a more cost efficient and energy-saving method of delivering our monthly newsletter to all of you.

If you have email, and if you would prefer, we would like to send you newsletters electronically. Please send your email address to firstparishnt@verizon.net and we will put you on our electronic mailing list. We would appreciate an email address update, from those of you who had been getting the newsletter electronically, to make sure that we have current email addresses.