



# The Open Door

November 2022

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist  
923 Main Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Rev. Wil Darcangelo, Minister

978.343.6307 fitchburguu@gmail.com fitchburguu.org



## Sunday Service begins at 10:30AM

Young people begin with us, then go downstairs with the CRE part way through the service. Infant and toddler care is available.

### Great News from Wil and the Board

Welcome Deborah Demazure to the ministerial staff of First Parish!

With consent of the Executive Board, we raised church member Deborah Demazure to an enhanced role among our congregation; that of Lay Minister. A Lay Minister is a person from among the laity, that is to say the non-ordained, for the purpose of deeper service to the ministry of a congregation. In this role, she will be available for additional pastoral care, she will be speaking regularly from the pulpit, both here and at our sister congregation in Lancaster, as the counterpart to *their* Lay Minister, Sedie Maruska. She will also be offering a monthly human enrichment experience in the form of talks on subjects like sound therapy and trying to please others as well as serving on the care committee. We feel confident that her additional presence here will be a benefit to us all and to the vibrancy of this 254 year old historic congregation.

Since first joining First Parish as a member in 2016, Deborah has demonstrated a tireless dedication to the thriving of this building and its congregation. As well, she has steadfastly broadened her knowledge of spirituality and religion, in addition to the broad array of holistic healing arts she has mastered. She has spoken from this pulpit many, many times over these past six years, honing her skills as an orator and communicator of encouragement. For which we are most grateful.

In pursuit of this congregation's desire to be of even better service to its goals of being a thriving hub of spirituality, justice, and creativity, we turn to the people now to ask you to bless and support her and her work here as well as in the world, that her hands may heal, her words comfort, and her divine spark be as a lighthouse for all.

### ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FEAST

We will forego the First Sunday Potluck this month and hold our annual BIG THANKSGIVING FEAST on Sunday, November 20th after our service!



We have a microwave and lots of plugs for things to be kept warm; plus our nice new fridge for cold items. So, please cook your contribution at home and bring it to the kitchen ready to be kept warm or to go from fridge to microwave. Or fridge to serving table, if it's a cold dish. Please, if you cannot drive to church and need a ride on this special day, let the office know! People here are happy to help others if they know there's a need.

This is the first Thanksgiving Feast at our church since before the pandemic. How wonderful to offer shared abundance and deliciousness again! Can't cook? Bring apple juice or cider, or a jar of cranberry sauce, or a bag of rolls and butter.

#### First Parish Office Hours:

**Mondays 10-3**

**Wednesdays 10-12**

**Fridays 9-3**

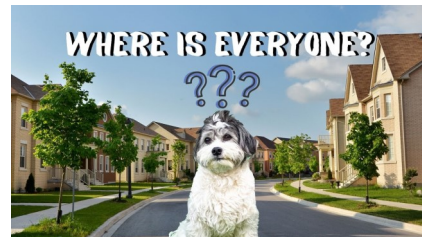
**978-343-6307**

**fitchbuguu@gmail.com**

The Open Door editors welcome articles and photos of FPC events! Our next deadline is Saturday, November 26th. Please send articles, photos, even "rough notes" to fitchburguu@gmail.com by that date. Early submissions are welcome!!! Thank you from Laura and Bonnie

## First Parish News

- ♦ The roof repairs are complete. Thank you to Fred Bernard for making all the arrangements, and to the Dillon Fund Trustees for allowing unspent monies from last year to go into the budget for the building.
- ♦ Gervais Mechanical has begun the annual servicing of the heat works in the boiler room. (Parts are on order.)
- ♦ We have signed a contract with Brideau to lock in a per gallon rate. Thank you to Karen at the Sundial and Heidi Hertel-Therrien for making this work out!
- ♦ Thursday, November 3 at 7PM - Drum Circle in the Dillon Room
- ♦ Karma Kickers Nov 4th 6:30PM in the Dillon Room
- ♦ YOGA with Yogi FreddyB:  
Mondays and Thursdays at 8AM  
Chair Yoga Thursday at 2PM
- ♦ Dec 11 is the next deadline for the Dillon Fund applications
- ♦ Executive Board's next monthly meeting is Sunday, November 6th at noon. In-person at the church. Anyone may attend!
- ♦ **Be sure to reset your clocks back one hour on the night of Nov 5th.** You could otherwise show up for church an hour early...



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Shay Bradham for holding a wonderful Samhain Pagan Gathering last Saturday evening in our Benjamin Room! There were 17 attendees of all ages, who were very happy to meet others who are interested in Paganism. There were church attendees and members present, as well as other local folks. Shay spoke about the history of Samhain, and had a crafty activity to take home for the 31st. The snack and conversation times were thoroughly enjoyed, with people changing their seating to help us all get to know each other. Next meet up coming in December for the winter solstice - stay tuned!

# *Something new and wonderful at First Parish:*

## **Human Enrichment Sunday**

Deborah Demazure, Lay Minister

Hello Friends,

Last month I conducted the first of many monthly human enrichment talks. October's talk was on sound therapy. It included a brief chakra balancing session. Everyone who attended seemed to enjoy it, and benefited from the healing effect of sound.

November's talk will be on Sunday, November 20. The subject will be "Trying To Please Others." If you're like me, especially during this busy time of the year, we sometimes can fall victim to overextending ourselves in order to keep peace with others. Let's look at how to identify this learned behavior, and how to make sure we carve out time for ourselves.

These Sunday talks are always after coffee hour. I keep them short (30 minutes) so that people can get on with their busy day. Always free of charge, and open to the public.

See you then,  
Deb



## **ANNOUNCING: the UU Collaborative of North Central Massachusetts**

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new collaboration group of UU area churches! Formed by the chair of the Winchendon church Jill Sackett and our Minister, Wil Darcangelo, the new UU Collaborative of North Central Massachusetts held its first regional gathering at our church on October 19.

Representatives from Winchendon, Orange, Petersham, Leominster, Lancaster, Fitchburg, and Ashby kicked off the first potluck event moderated by UUA representative Wren Bellavance-Grace.

A discussion regarding strengths, weaknesses, and things we learned during the pandemic were the focus of the first gathering. In addition, it was decided that we would meet again in January, on a date to be determined, this time at the Winchendon church, so that we can look at their food distribution program first hand, enjoy some of the food it makes for a takeout service, and hold our first targeted discussion on how to better market ourselves the growing population of those who still need spiritual community but have not yet been attracted to a church community.

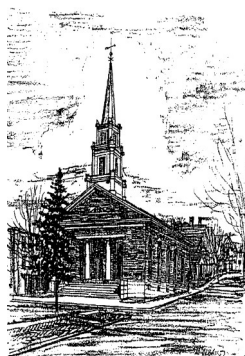
All UU churches and members from North Central Massachusetts are welcome to attend. Spread the word!

The collaborative has its own Facebook page as well. Search under UU Collaborative of North Central Massachusetts or find it through this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/832013087933981/?ref=share> (Copy and paste into browser)

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist  
923 Main Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

To:



## *The Open Door*

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist  
923 Main Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
Rev. Wil Darcangelo, Minister  
978.343.6307 [fitchburguu@gmail.com](mailto:fitchburguu@gmail.com)

[fitchburguu.org](http://fitchburguu.org)