

# *Transcending into Now*

## *Sabbatical--Spring 2019*



First Parish of Sudbury  
Unitarian Universalist

327 Concord Road  
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fpsudbury.org

## **Transcending into Now**

### ***What is a sabbatical?***

In biblical terms a sabbatical means “sabbath,” a time to rest. This time helps a minister to withdrawal from the 24x7 pace of ministry in order to rest, reflect, and travel with the goal of regaining personal and spiritual perspective. This time in repose enables the minister to return refreshed and renewed in body, mind and spirit. The commitment to offering a sabbatical to the minister also delivers a refreshed ministry to the congregation.

*Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matty will be on sabbatical  
beginning January 7<sup>th</sup>  
returning to our pulpit on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019*

### ***Taking the Lead***

To ensure that the work of First Parish continues on, members and friends will be hard at work. Three teams of people will be directly responsible for the day-to-day operations:

The Board – staffed with elected representatives of the congregation will continue on with the day-to-day business of running a UU congregation and associated meetinghouse. They will work with the Treasurer and the Council to ensure the health of the congregation and the members in the minister’s absence from duty.

Worship Associates Group (WAG) – will focus on preparing the spring worship schedule with the help of our thematic worship resources, Touchstones. The members of WAG will also be working hard to coordinate guest preachers and hosts. If you are interested in taking a leading role in worship, please contact Michael Tyo or Fran Sharp.

Pastoral Associates Group (PAG) – is comprised of several members of First Parish who assist in responding to the pastoral needs of the congregation. Their outreach can include everything from bringing meals to a family with a new baby to assisting someone who has recently lost a loved one. You can reach a pastoral associate two ways: 1) email or call Fran Sharp, the congregational administrator and she will forward your request for assistance; 2) reach out to a pastoral associate with whom you feel most comfortable:

Paul Reising  
Fred Pryor  
Craig Parkhill  
Mary Ellen French  
Lois Schiappa  
Bruce Porter

Rev. Marjorie will be recruiting ministerial colleagues and the UUA sabbatical assistance team will provide a list of ministerial resources in case a member or the congregation requires professional ministry. Memorial Services will be officiated by one of these ministerial colleagues. Weddings and baby dedications will be scheduled appropriately and will be responded to as needed by available clergy.

### ***What will happen during sabbatical?***

During sabbatical much of the programming that you are familiar with will continue. Religious Exploration for the children will be led by Michele Barkhauer and the Religious Exploration Committee (REC), small group ministry will begin in the fall of 2018 and continue through 2019, worship will continue at the same time and with the same commitment to excellence. There is also a plan for the spring to do some strategic thinking as proposed at the 2018 annual meeting.

### ***Whose sabbatical is it?***

The ministry of First Parish is a shared venture of the minister, the staff, the leadership and the congregation. Rev. Marjorie is asking us to take our own sabbatical journey during her time away by exploring new opportunities for worship, reflection, renewal, and small group ministry which will be a large part of this endeavor. In her time away, Marjorie will be looking at the ways we learn in childhood to self-identify and she will dig into her own newly discovered DNA roots, her unknown history, as a way to realize her place in the world and gain an understanding of self. She will take a journey of discovery and reflect, through writing, on the implications of being adopted and one's sense of self and identity.

### ***How do I get more information?***

Check the bulletin boards in the Parish Hall. Talk with a member of the leadership team who is responsible for the area of need: Pastoral Care, Worship or the Board of Trustees.

Also, please check the First Parish website for more information [fpsudbury.org](http://fpsudbury.org) or the newsletters: the weekly [News U Can Use](#) or the monthly [Connector](#).

### ***How Can I Help?***

First of all, and most importantly stay committed and show up on Sundays! Your presence is the most important way that you can preserve First Parish in the absence of the settled minister.

Be a greeter, an usher, host social hour, welcome visitors with love and excitement. The First Parish community that you care for is yours and requires your energy to thrive and grow. You are carrying on the ministry in the absence of the minister!

Lastly, always be kind and forgiving, offer the benefit of the doubt to the stranger and the known alike.



## **Sabbatical Worship Service Schedule**

Worship plans for January—June 2019 are evolving. To see the current list of speakers and topics, please go to the First Parish public website [www.fpsudbury.org](http://www.fpsudbury.org) and click on Sabbatical Worship Services on the front page.

### **Contact Information**

#### ***Fran Sharp, Administrator***

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(office hours Tuesday-Friday 7am-noon)

#### ***Debra Morris-Bennett, Minister of Music***

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#### ***Michael Tyo, Chair of Worship Associates***

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