

The Bell-Ringer

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, MA 02331



DECEMBER 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 4th -- "The Perfect Gift of Presence" -- PRESENCE is our church-wide theme for December. If there's one reason the holidays lose the luster of childhood wonder as the years go on, it is because we are increasingly less *present*. Let's talk about the "reason for this season" of gift-giving (**BRING HATS, SCARVES, & MITTENS FOR OUR MITTEN TREE**)

Dec. 11th -- "Holy Ground" -- J.D. Salinger said "All we do our whole lives is go from one little piece of Holy Ground to the next." Catherine will be joined by our Sabbatical Minister Rev. Jill Cowie as we reflect upon what claiming/finding holy ground feels like, looks like, dreams like. **JOIN US IN THIS SPECIAL SERVICE TO WELCOME JILL (THIS WILL BE CATHERINE'S LAST REGULAR SERVICE BEFORE SABBATICAL!)**

Dec. 18th -- "The Holiday Pageant" - The children and youth will present the annual holiday pageant, a fresh re-telling of the ancient stories of the winter season. **Please come and support our young people! (Guest At Your Table ends today)**

Dec. 24th "Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. – ALWAYS ONE OF THE BEST SERVICES OF THE YEAR! Traditional service of lessons and carols. Our musical prelude will begin at 5 p.m. Bring your children, neighbors, out-of-town guests, and let's all share the joy of the holiday season!

Jan. 1st -- "Sharing Service" - In the Parlor with Worship Leader, Michael Gardner. Bring a song, a story, a poem, an idea, or an emotion. Childcare available.

Jan. 8th -- "Questions Out of the Box" -- With Catherine on sabbatical, we are taking a different approach to the traditional "Question Box" service. Ruth Owen, Jenn Shattuck and representatives from the HIP group will ask and answer questions about faith, hope, service and mystery. Everyone will have a chance to contribute as we think about what sustains us into the future.

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1

Book Club 9:00am
Alliance Sewing Grp. 10:00-2:00pm
Worship 7:00pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2

SETUP HOLIDAY FAIR ALL DAY

Committee on Ministry 5:00pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

HOLIDAY FAIR 9:00AM – 2:00PM

DIC-St. Paul's of the Nazarene 9:00am

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

MITTEN TREE

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Worship 10:30am

PILGRIM FESTIVAL CHORUS 7:30PM

Buddhist Group 4:00-6:30pm

HIP 6:00-7:30pm

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6

R.E. Meeting 7:00p.m.

Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7

Building & Grounds 9:00 – 11:00a.m.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8

Book Club 9:00am

Alliance Sewing Grp. 10:00-2:00pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9

Yoga 10:30 – 11:45a.m.

Continued on pg. 7

Warmest Holiday Greetings to All from the Staff at
First Parish Church!



Rev. Catherine Cullen

Dawn MacKechnie

Lenore O'Malley

Ruth Owen

Alex Perzner

Richard Roquemore

John Russo

Elaine Stephansky

Edwin Swanborn

May we all take the time this holiday season to remember the gifts we receive from each other. Best wishes for a peaceful holiday and a blessed New Year!



First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts

P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A)

Email: uuduxbury@verizon.net

Telephone: 781-934-6532

Website: www.duxburyuu.org



A liberal religious community dedicated to nurturing individual spiritual development, promoting understanding and working for social justice. We welcome people of all races, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

Rev. Catherine Cullen, Minister

Ruth Owen, Interim Director of Religious Education

Edwin Swanborn, Music Director

Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Alex Pevzner, Jr., Junior Choir Director

Rev. Robert R. Walsh, Minister Emeritus

Jackie Smith-Miller, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator

Our Theme for December is "Presence"

In its most basic meaning, "presence" means showing up. As we enter the holiday season and our beloved tradition of the holiday pageant I invite us to ask, "Who showed up? Why did it matter?" For I believe the real meaning of the Christmas story lies in the answers. Who showed up? Well, Mary and Joseph for starters, although not voluntarily. They were forced to bow to the powers of the state. The inn keeper showed up, giving shelter to the wanderers. The shepherds, the common working men, showed up curious but apprehensive. The three kings showed up, perhaps to tell us that not all earthly power resided in Rome. And, finally, in the guise of the angels, God showed up. Why does it matter? Without even one of them it would be a very different story. We can think of the Christmas story as being about how the powerless, the working person, and the politically powerful made sense of their world in unsettled times. It is a story about recognizing blessings (a baby) in a time of great hardship (the census). It is about coming to terms with earthly power (the kings decide to go home by another way, rather than report to Rome) and trying to come to terms with powers beyond ourselves. It is an ancient story, but we tell it over and over because it is in so many ways also our story. We too are present in this story, we too can choose to show up. One way we know we are not alone in the troubles and anxieties of our own times is to reflect on the stories of those who came before. The story of Christmas is not a story of history or science, it is a story of the human spirit. It is a story of how goodness and hope keep showing up, even in dark times.

At FPC we re-tell the Christmas story every year through our holiday pageant. This year the agent schedule is as follows:

Dec. 4 - We will choose parts and run through the story

Dec. 11 - We will rehearse and be fitted for costumes

Dec. 18 - The pageant will be performed during the service

All rehearsals will take place during regular Sunday school times, although there may be some extra rehearsals for dancers. All children - including grandchildren and friends - are invited to participate in the pageant either as performers or helpers. We will find a part for everyone who wants one.

Ruth Owen

Interim DRE Director



Holiday Workshop, Dec. 4, After Church

Jingle and glitter, pinecones and glue, candy canes and sparkles and everything festive! Come and join the Queen of Holiday Crafts (AKA Missy Schortmann) and her court of merry HIP-sters in a glorious celebration of all things holiday and all things crafty. There will be crafts for all ages and lots of yummy goodies. Come one and come all!



Mitten Tree, Dec. 4

On December 4 during the service, we will be collecting hats, mittens and warm accessories for needy children and adults. Please bring your new or very gently used contribution to hang on our mitten tree.



Ring Out Justice!

News of Social Justice Activities at First Parish Church

Social Justice Committee Members:

Carrie Meier, Carol Nappellio, Peter Nappellio, Callie Brandeis, Andrea Brandeis, Mary Flanagan, Donna Savicki, Cindy Wilson, Bob Hughes, Nancy Nowak, Sally Delisa, Cindy Ladd-Fiorini, Troy Riley, Bella Santorini (HIP Representative), and Nancy Landgren.

Meeting: second Sundays 12 noon to 1 PM

Please Join Us! All Welcome!



Bring Christmas Joy for Girls and Boys

First Parish Church, through the Box Project, helps the ten neediest families served by South Shore Head Start. You can help these families by choosing a 'Christmas wish' from the tags on the Bulletin Board Saturday, Dec. 3rd at the Christmas Fair or Sunday Dec. 4th before or after church.

All presents should be brought to the church on or by Dec. 11th wrapped and with the tag on it. You can bring smiles to a boy or girl and make the holidays happy for all.

Directions for Christmas Wishes:

1. Buy the present.
2. Wrap the present.
3. Securely attach the tag to the present (tape along one side would be fine).
4. **Bring the present to the church on or before Sunday, Dec. 15th.**

Thanks and Happy Holidays!

Box Project Volunteers and The Social Justice Committee



UUSC Guest At Your Table focuses on:

“DEFYING HATE”

Our theme for this year’s Guest at Your Table celebration could not be more relevant to today’s world: *“Defying Hate.”*

Beginning at our Intergenerational Harvest Feast on November 20th, families received a GAYT box to share their gifts at meal time in support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and its partners. Families are encouraged to ponder the *Stories of Hope* that defy hate and advance human rights while sharing a meal. Each family can return their box when the GAYT program is formally concluded on December 18, prior to the Christmas Pageant.

Presented by the Social Justice Committee and Religious Education, we hope that you will give generously so that UUSC can continue to partner with local organizations and be a leading voice for human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world.

Your donation of \$40 or more earns you annual UUSC membership benefits and your contribution of \$125 or more will be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY, doubling the impact of your gift. However, any donation is gratefully accepted. You may give by filling out the contribution envelop located in your pew and placing it in the offering plate or go to the UUSC website, GAYT, and give online. Thank you for giving generously!



Share the Plate nomination process is open!

Does your family have a favorite cause they would like First Parish to support? We are inviting nominations for Share the Plate recipients for February – June 2017.

Nominees will be nonprofits whose purposes align with those of FPC. They may be local, national or international. Preference will be given to organizations that use a high percentage of their budgets for programming. Recipients that have been selected to date are: Doctors Without Borders, Sandy Hook Promise, Magical Moon, Massachusetts Bail Fund.

Find nomination forms on our website under Committees and Leadership>Social Justice or outside the church office. Send completed forms to the church office.

The deadline to nominate is Dec 4th, so get those nominations rolling!

Social Justice Committee

Father Bill's Community Table

First Parish will not be providing food or serving the luncheon in December. We will resume our role in January. I would like to thank everyone at First Parish Church who served, volunteered, prepared and donated food for the guests at Father Bill's.

I am passing the baton to Molly Bogan along with her grandparents, Michael and Sherry Gardner. I loved my role of youth coordinator for Father Bill's and am thankful for the opportunity. I began volunteering at Father Bill's at age 11. I have learned so much.

Thank you,

Callie Brandeis, Social Justice Committee Member



Clothing Needs for December for the Box Project

Girl clothing size 5 and 6 and Boy size 6

Girl's boots size 10 and Boy's boots sizes 7.5, 9 and 13.

If you have any of these , please email Carrie Meier at carriemeier@comcast.net



Overnights of Hospitality: Can You Help Feed the Homeless in Our Area?

During the coldest months of winter the “**Overnights of Hospitality**” emergency shelter program provides a hot meal and a warm place to sleep for homeless men in Plymouth. Two Plymouth churches provide the housing. We at First Parish participate by providing meals and supplies. This is an opportunity for us as a church to reach out to those in our community who desperately need it. We will be serving meals the first Thursday and second Sunday of each month. In December, that is Thursday, Dec. 1st and Sunday, Dec. 11th.

Looking ahead to January: Cooks and servers are needed for Thursday 1/5 and Sunday 1/8. We have recipe suggestions and will pair you with someone who knows the ropes. Mark your calendars and contact us if you can help. To sign up stop by the Social Justice Table after the service or contact Troy Riley, troyriley@mac.com or 508-746-6702.

Thank you,

Troy Riley and the Social Justice Committee

Continued Calendar from Page 1:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10
EARLY MUSIC CONCERT 7:00pm

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11
BOX PROJECT DUE DATE
SHARE THE PLATE

Social Justice 9:15am
Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Angel Rehearsal 12:00-1:30pm
HIP 6:00-7:30pm
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30pm

MONDAY DECEMBER 12
Agenda Setting 7:00pm
Welcome Congregation 7:00pm

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13
Memoirs 7:15pm
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14
Kindred Spirits 10:00 – 11:30am

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15
Book Club 9:00am
Historical Committee 9:30am
Men's Get Together 11:00am
No Alliance
Governing Board Mtg. 7:00pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16
Yoga 10:30 – 11:45am

POLLY'S PARTY! 7:00pm
SUNDAY DECEMBER 18
PAGEANT

Worship 10:30am
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30pm

TUESDAY DECEMBER 20
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm

THURSDAY DECEMBER 22
Book Club 9:00am
No Alliance

FRIDAY DECEMBER 23
Yoga 10:30 – 11:45am

OFFICE CLOSATES AT 12:00 NOON
SATURDAY DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE!
No Community Table for December
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Prelude 5:00pm, Service 5:30pm

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY!

MONDAY DECEMBER 26
PFLAG 7:30 – 9:00pm
SSHAGLY 7:30 – 9:00pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30
Yoga 10:30 – 11:45pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31ST
NEW YEAR'S EVE!
SUNDAY JANUARY 1ST
SHARING SERVICE

Buddhist Group 5:00 – 6:30pm

MONDAY JANUARY 2ND
OFFICE CLOSED
TUESDAY JANUARY 3RD
BELLRINGER DEADLINE
OFFICE OPENS!

R.E. Meeting 7:00pm



CARING CONNECTION:

There are many caring members of our church community who are willing to lend a hand to those having a difficult time! The Caring Connection can coordinate meals, transportation, babysitting or visits to shut-ins. For the month of **DECEMBER**, the contact is Michael Gardner, sgmgardner47@gmail.com, 617-833-9606.



Minister's Office Hours:

Catherine's regular office hours are **Mon., Wed., and Thur.** from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Tuesdays are her days off and Friday's are her sermon writing days. She may be contacted by cell at (781) 635-5906. If you need to schedule an appointment during office hours or any time after office hours, please feel free to contact Catherine at TheRevCatherine@aol.com, at her cell number, or by leaving a message at the church.

Start Your New Year Off With Spiritual Direction Opportunities at First Parish Church!

The still, small voice is with you whether you are racing through your busy days or sitting in meditative silence or contemplative prayer. Spiritual direction is for anyone who is searching for deeper spiritual insights and for spiritual growth in the events of our hectic daily lives. You can use your time in spiritual direction to slow down, to learn how to listen, to explore life's deeper issues and to make progress toward achieving greater consistency between your deeply held values and your actions. This fall Catherine is offering Individual Spiritual Direction (participants meet with Catherine once a month for an hour or so). Contact Catherine via email at TheRevCatherine@aol.com or call her here at the church (781)934-6532 ext 3, to learn more about this unique ancient spiritual practice. May this be the year you explore more deeply the spiritual meaning of your life!

Church Office Hours

The FPC church office is open **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Tuesdays 8:30-11:30am.** Please call Lenore, 781-934-6532 or email at uuduxbury@verizon.net if you need anything.

The Church Office will be closed from December 23rd at 12:00 noon until Tuesday, January 3rd. See you all in 2017!
Happy Holidays!!



ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAYS - Family/Child Sunday (1st Sun. each month)
 Joys & Concerns (2nd Sun. each month)
 Announcement Sunday (1st & 3rd Sun. each month)
 Silent Joys & Concerns (4th Sun. each month)
 Membership 9:00am (3rd Sun. each month)
 Music Committee (1st Sun. each month) 12 p.m.
 Social Justice 9 a.m. (2nd Sun. each month)
 Buddhist Meditation 5-6:30p.m. (weekly)

MONDAYS - Building Use 10 a.m. (4th Mon. each month)
 Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2nd Mon. each month)
 Welcoming Congregation 7:00pm (2nd Monday of each month)
 PFLAG - 7:30-9:00pm (4th Monday of each month)

TUESDAYS - Hand Bells 7 p.m.
 Memoirs 7:15p.m. (2nd Tues. each month)
 Communications 7:00pm (2nd Tuesday of every month)

WEDNESDAYS - RE Committee 7 p.m. (1st Wed. of each month)
 Staff meeting 11:30 a.m. (weekly)
 Buildings & Grounds 9-11 a.m. (1st Wed. each month)
 "Kindred Spirits" 10:00 -11:30 a.m. (2nd Wed. each month)

THURSDAYS - Book Group 9 a.m.
 Sewing Group 10 a.m.
 Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. (1st Thurs. each month)
 Agenda Setting 7-8 p.m. (2nd Thurs. each month)
 Alliance Luncheons 12:30pm (3rd Thurs. each month)
 Governing Board 7 p.m. (3rd Thurs. each month)
 Historical Committee 9:30a.m. (3rd Thurs. of each month)

FRIDAYS - Committee On Ministry 5 p.m. (1st Fri. each month)

SATURDAYS - Community Table 9:15 a.m. (4th Sat. each month)

Saturday, December 3rd
 9am to 2pm

HOLIDAY Fair

First Parish Church
 842 Tremont St, Rt 3a
 Duxbury, MA 02331



HOLIDAY FAIR!

The Holiday Fair will be Saturday December 3th from 9 to 2. We hope you will help us make this a successful fundraiser by donating greens, or an item for the silent auction (valued at \$20 or more), or something for the gourmet table, or for Mrs. Kringle's table. We can also use help with set up on Friday and clean up on Saturday. But more than this, come and shop, have lunch at Ruby's Cafe. Pick up a gift tag with a child's wish as part of the Box Project. Bring your family!



January Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017

Alliance News



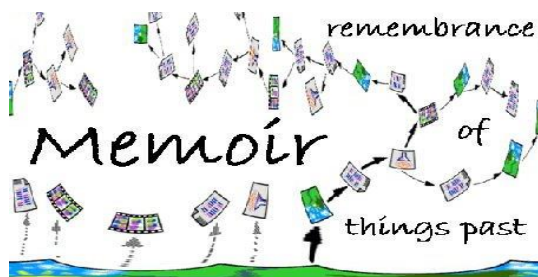
Christmas Party

Friday Night, December 16th, 7 p.m.
Alliance Christmas Party

Come One – Come All!

Come to the home of **Polly Lanman** for our **Annual Alliance Christmas Party** complete with good food, joyous carol singing and a Yankee Swap. Bring a “funny” gift for the Yankee Swap (no need to spend a lot of money, \$5 max.). Join us for an evening of warm folks, singing Christmas Carols and lots of laughs.

Please call Jackie Smith-Miller at (781) 934-5750 if you need a ride. Hope to see you there!



Next Memoirs

Our next meeting of Memoirs will be Tuesday, December 13th at 7:15pm in the Fletcher Room.

Our topic will be “*Thanksgiving Memories*”.

Come and join us!



We Minstrels 3 Candlelight Concert
December 10th, 2016

All Proceeds Benefit First Parish Church!



**WE
MINSTRELS
3**

Candlelight Concert

Music and verse of the troubadours,
the Renaissance and the Baroque

First Parish Church, Duxbury
 842 Tremont St. (Rte. 3A) next to Old Town Hall

Saturday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

Wine and cheese reception following the concert

Tickets \$20, bring a friend for \$10 more
 Teens and students, \$10; children 12 and under free

Tickets at Eventbrite.com and at the door
 All proceeds benefit the church



Pretty Poinsettias to Purchase



Red and white poinsettias will be for sale for \$7.00 each! There is a sign-up sheet outside the office. These plants will help decorate our lovely sanctuary during this holiday season. After the Christmas Eve service, members who purchased a plant may take it with them home if they choose. The deadline for ordering flowers will be **Sunday, December 11th**. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or contact Sheri Wyman, (781) 834-4728 or sherwyman@yahoo.com, if you have any questions.

Thank you and Happy Holidays from the Flower Committee!




Bell Ringing – New Year's Eve!

Come join us on New Year's Eve to Ring the Bells! Bring a snack! Come by the church at 11:30pm!
Any questions, please call Judi Vose at 781-934-3283, or email at copperfarm@comcast.net.

At First Parish Church **December 4th**

The Pilgrim Festival Chorus
presents



**Around
The World
Christmas**

William B. Richter, Music Director
Elizabeth Chapman Reilly, Pianist

December 2, 2016 7:30pm
Central Congregational Church, Middleboro

December 3, 2016 7:30pm
St. Bonaventure Parish, Plymouth

December 4, 2016 7:30pm
1st Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Duxbury

Tickets may be ordered at
<http://www.pilgrimfestivalchorus.org> or purchased at the door.

