

The Bell-Ringer

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



DECEMBER 2021

OUR ALL CHURCH THEME THIS MONTH IS "OPENING TO JOY".

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec 5---"Changing the Moment: A Lesson in Joy" -- Catherine will be joined by our Sabbatical Minister Rob Kinslow **(PLEASE BRING HATS, SCARVES, & MITTENS FOR OUR MITTEN TREE—ITEMS WILL BE DELIVERED TO PLYMOUTH COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS)**

Dec. 12 -- "Jesus Without the Miracles" -- Our Unitarian ancestor Thomas Jefferson literally cut out the miracle stories about Jesus from his Bible. Is "Jesus without the miracles" a spiritual leader UU's can embrace? **(SHARE THE PLATE WITH FATHER BILL'S)**

Dec. 19 – The Holiday Pageant" – Join us for our Children's Christmas Pageant! -- This year we will highlight the special holiday traditions of our RE families as we gather "virtually" for this wonderful FPC Holiday tradition!

Dec. 24th -- "Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. – ALWAYS ONE OF THE BEST SERVICES OF THE YEAR--HYBRID STYLE--We'll celebrate the holiday with a traditional service of lessons and carols. Our musical prelude will begin at 5 p.m. **Seating will limited so make your reservations by contacting Lenore!**

Dec. 26th -- "Sharing Service" - Worship Leader, Michael Gardner. Bring a song, a story, a poem, an idea, or an emotion. Childcare available.

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 2

Book Club 9:00 - Zoom

Worship/Music 7:00p.m.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4

HOLIDAY FAIR!!

9:00am – 2:00pm

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5

Worship 10:00am

TUESDAY DECEMBER 7

Knit4Peace 10:00am

Bell Choir 3:30pm

THURSDAY DECEMBER 9

Book Club 9:00am – zoom

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10

YOGA 11:00am

Knit4Peace 4:00pm

FUN FRIDAY!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12

Worship 10:00am

Knit4Peace 11:30am

MONDAY DECEMBER 13

SSHAGLY 7:00-9:00pm

(Continued on pg. 9)



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



Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen

Lenore O'Malley

Richard Roquemore

John Russo

Dr. Kate Sullivan

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. Dr. Catherine Cullen, Minister
Edwin Swanborn, Music Director
Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator
Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Dr. Kate Sullivan, Acting Director of Community Life & Learning
Jackie Smith-Miller, Dir. of Religious Education, Emerita
Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Join your Minister Thanksgiving Morning!



Governing Board

From the Governing Board: The President's Report

At our November meeting, the Governing Board voted to approve \$212,000 for the front step renovation project as recommended by the Capital Projects Planning group. The funds to pay for the project will come from Meeting House trust fund reserves as recommended by the Trustees. We decided to re-schedule the committee chair meeting (the one that was cancelled because of power outages associated with the recent storm) to Wednesday January 26th at 7 pm on Zoom. Details to follow in January.

The monthly 'Talk with the Governing Board' session will take place on December 12th after church. Sunday Morning Liaison Sally Delisa and I will be available for questions after church both in-person and by Zoom. And, of course, you can always reach out to any board member at any time with questions or concerns.

We also finalized our goals for the 2021-2022 church year. These are listed below:

2021-2022 Governing Board Goals

- Facilitate community in the church
 - Support Fun Friday, book clubs, and other events
 - Attend church-wide events and fundraisers
 - Attend coffee hour
- Communication and transparency; to the congregation and to committees
 - The President will write a Governing Board report for each Bell Ringer
 - Update and distribute the org. chart of board members and chairs/co-chairs
 - Make the bylaws and annual meeting minutes easily available to members
 - Run three co-chair meetings
 - Continue the 'Meet with the Board' at coffee hour
 - Liaisons should attend one each of their groups' meetings
- Support the DARI initiative
 - Organize a church-wide vote (completed)
 - Support the Parsonage working group
- Set in place a process for a long-term plan for church finances;
 - Create a working group to create a five-year plan
 - Consider whether a similar plan for growth/survival is required
- Fundraising
 - Propose / support alternatives if Covid prevents the Holiday Fair, the Service Auction, and Summer Fair from taking place (or from being as successful as hoped)
- Support Envisioning the Sanctuary initiative
 - Help the committee organize a special meeting to vote on options
 - Propose and/or support solutions
- Support social justice/green initiatives
 - Make all Governing Board voting decisions through a 'green' lens

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

All the best,

Jim Hamilton, Governing Board President. 781-724-6456, jim@greenharbor.com.



Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century Update

What a fabulous weekend we had with Scott Tayler, the consultant who is helping us with the Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century process! We are so grateful for all of the volunteers who helped make the entire weekend a success, from the hors d'oeuvres and beverages at Saturday's wine & cheese reception to the lunch offerings on Sunday, as well as donations of time to help with childcare and to facilitate the many breakout groups. Thanks also to the Simeone family who hosted Scott at their home and to Tracy Wagner who with help from Carolyn Mitchell served a delightful meal on Saturday morning as a working breakfast for the members of the working group.

The Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century working group is happy that so many of you came to the worship service and workshop with Scott Tayler on Sunday. If you missed it, it's well worth a listen. In fact, even if you were there, it's great to hear Scott's words again and to listen to the voices of our youth and other church members express their thoughts on change and the future. The entire recording of Sunday's Envisioning worship and workshop is up on YouTube. Those looking for specific segments will find that Scott's sermon starts at 37:18 and the workshop begins at 1:27:40. The first part of the workshop is very moving since it includes the two 'fishbowl' exercises, one with our youth group & young adults and the other with a group of church members we called 'the Builders.'

Here's the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4on8qeB8Quc>

Our Envisioning work has pivoted, as Scott said, and over the next few months we will continue these discussions as we get more specific about our plans for the Meeting House.

With gratitude,

Jim Hamilton for the Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century working group

The other members of the working group are: Elaine Bryant, Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, Caroline Mitchell, Dorothy Pilla, Troy Riley, Carol Robison, Emily Simeone, and Tracy Wagner





Tis the season! This month in RE we'll be focusing on preparation for our second online ZOOM pageant for all to enjoy! Like last year, we will be bringing you our pageant on ZOOM as we continue to keep everyone's safety in mind through the pandemic. This year we will highlight the special holiday traditions of our RE families as we gather "virtually" for this wonderful FPC Holiday tradition!



As we move into the colder winter months, we will be spending our time mostly indoors while remaining masked for safety. We will continue to begin each Sunday



in the Children's RE space, except for a once-a-month Family Service where all ages will begin in the Sanctuary. This month we begin in the Sanctuary on Dec. 5th to welcome SABBATICAL MINISTER

Rev. Rob Kinslow. This will be a great chance to meet him and see how fortunate we are to have him in the pulpit while Catherine is on sabbatical.

Youth Group is going strong! We are continuing to meet weekly after church I am so grateful for our Youth Advisor, McKayla Hoffman, for their commitment to creating deep and meaningful activities for our youth, who need their church community now more than ever! We are so proud of the way the youth stepped up to share their thoughts at the *Envisioning the Sanctuary for the 21st Century workshop* with Rev. Scott Taylor. They KNOW they are the future of the church!

December's monthly theme is **JOY.**

Peace & Blessings, Kate





Ring Out Justice!

News of Social Justice Activities at First Parish Church

Social Justice Committee Members:

Ann Callanan, Sally Delisa, Mary Flanagan, Cindy Ladd Fiorini, Sherry Gardner, Bob Hughes, Eleanor McGonagle, Carrie Meier, Sarah Moran, Carol Nappellio, Peter Nappellio, Jeanne Penvenne, Susan Rudman, Judy Savage, Donna Savicki, Mark Schlesinger, PJ Simeone, Emily Simeone, Cindy Simmons, Cindy Wilson, Ronnie Whelan.

Membership in the Social Justice Committee is open to all FPC members and friends. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Carrie Meier (carriemeier1@comcast.net) or Jeanne Penvenne (jeanne.penvenne@tufts.edu) or just drop in on one of our meetings.

For now we are still meeting at 9 AM on the second Sunday of the month, but that looks to change.



Toward a Reckoning with Our Past and Present

Throughout this church year First Parish will continue to respond to Jackie Smith-Miller's question: What does our Black Lives Matter banner call us to do? It calls us to recognize inequities and erasures in our past and present. The denominational history we rightly honor developed in a context we ought not ignore. The lands they entered and occupied were not empty and often they were taken by force. That requires a conversation.

Carol Robison highlighted a few good places to start:

<https://theconversation.com/land-acknowledgments-meant-to-honor-indigenous-people-too-often-do-the-opposite-erasing-american-indians-and-sanitizing-history-instead-163787>

<https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

Cindy Ladd Fiorini suggested this:

<https://blogs.massaudubon.org/yourgreatoutdoors/reflection-and-acknowledgment-on-indigenous-peoples-day/>

The Unitarian Universalist Association invites us to move toward Land Acknowledgements and Beyond:

<https://www.uua.org/justice/blog/beyond-land-acknowledgment>

It will be an exciting voyage.

Jeanne Marie Penvenne & Carrie Meier, Co-Chairs Social Justice



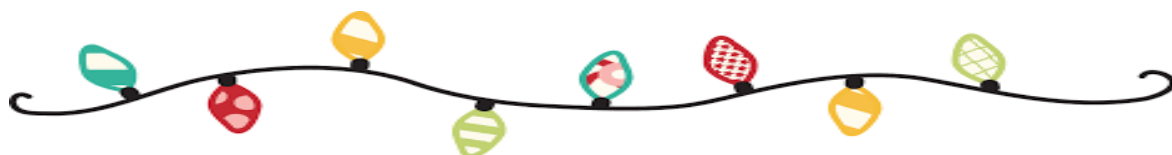
Our Sandwich Ministry

After the pandemic cut off our access to Father Bill's in Brockton, Bob Hughes came up with another opportunity for us.

Every Tuesday since last December, members and friends of First Parish Church have put together 20 bag lunches for the homeless in Plymouth. Twenty-one people have donated a total of 960 turkey sandwiches. Others have donated an equal number of individually wrapped desserts. Yet another secured donations of juice boxes and fruit cups, and the Social Justice Committee devoted a portion of its budget to cover the cost of sandwich and lunch bags as well as bags of chips.

We welcome additional volunteers! For more information about this program and how you can participate, go to: <https://uudux.org/make-a-difference/> or contact Donna Savicki (dsavicki@comcast.net or 781-585-8041)

(Thanks to Jeanne Penvenne for coining the phrase "sandwich ministry")



Continued Calendar from Page 1:**TUESDAY DECEMBER 14**

Bell Choir 3:30pm

THURSDAY DECEMBER 16

Book Club 9:00am -- Zoom

Governing Board 7:00pm – Zoom

Men's Senior Party 11:00am

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19

Holiday Pageant 10:00am – Zoom

Knit4Peace 11:30am

TUESDAY DECEMBER 21

Bell Choir 3:30pm

THURSDAY DECEMBER 23

Book Club 9:00am – Zoom

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24**CHRISTMAS EVE!****5:00pm Prelude, 5:30pm Service
In-Person & Zoom!!****SATURDAY DECEMBER 25****CHRISTMAS DAY!****OFFICE CLOSED****SUNDAY DECEMBER 26****SHARING SERVICE – 10:00am****MONDAY DECEMBER 27****R.E. Meeting 7:00pm**

PFLAG 7:00-9:00pm

SSHAGLY 7:00-9:00pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 31**NEW YEAR'S EVE!****SATURDAY JANUARY 1st****NEW YEAR'S DAY!****OFFICE CLOSED****MONDAY JANUARY 3****OFFICE OPENS!****BELLINGER DUE DATE****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**, sgmgardner4746@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.

**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
Friday, December 24th through
Monday, January 3th.
See you all in 2022!
Happy Holidays!!



January Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Monday, January 3rd, 2022

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)

Historical Committee 10:30a.m. (1st Monday of 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)

RE Committee 7:00pm (4th Mon. each month)

TUESDAYS - Hand Bells 3:30 p.m.

Communications 7:00pm

(2nd Tuesday of every month)

WEDNESDAYS – 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)

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

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



Knitting 4 Peace in December!!

The K4P group will have a slightly modified schedule in December.

We will meet the first Tuesday, 12/7 from 10-11, the second Friday 12/10 from 4-5 and the second Sunday 12/12 from 11:30-12:30! Normally we meet the third Sunday but that's too close to Christmas.

Keep your knitting needles and crochet hooks busy as well craft warm things for those in need. And be sure to invite your friends and neighbors! Any questions please contact Cindy Ladd Fiorini at claddfiorini@gmail.com or 617-921-6224.

Christmas Eve Service

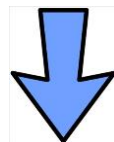
In-Person and Zoom!





HOLIDAY FAIR 2021
Saturday, December 4th
9:00am – 2:00pm

We need you to make the Holiday Fair successful! Below are the many ways you can help us pull off this beloved event. Let us know how you can participate by emailing the table chairs directly, sign up at coffee hour or fill out this google form:



Link to Sign-Up Form:

<https://forms.gle/i6X9dCa24T6mMos96>

Gourmet & Bake Table

Prepare baked goods, jams, chutneys, and other other tasty treats. Pies sell very well!
(Carol Nappellio, Petercarol1966@gmail.com)

Silent Auction

Donate giftable items with a value of \$20 or more: new items you want to re-gift, hand crafted items, sporting event or concert tickets, gift cards, theme baskets, use of a vacation property, and other items that folks will be excited to bid on.

(Cindy at claddfiorini@gmail.com or Tracy, Wagnertracy@comcast.net)

Mrs. Kringles

Small holiday items, candles, ornaments or anything you want to re-gift is welcome. Holiday themed jewelry is always a big hit. Look for clearly marked box near office the week of Fair.

(Pat at pat.slechta@nemoves.com)

Greens

Deliver holly and evergreen boughs to church by 11/29 for the greens artists. Help craft arrangements and wreaths the week before.

(Sharon at snabreski@comcast.net)

Set-up Crew/Clean up-Sign up to help on Friday 12/3 from 9-12AM or from 2-4PM Saturday from 2-4PM

(Jay at jaybray8832@gmail.com)

Amazing things happen when we work together!



shutterstock.com · 1490829425

WHY A SABBATICAL?

The sabbatical leave is a tradition for Unitarian Universalist clergy, and is part of the congregation's covenant agreement with Catherine. A sabbatical offers an extended time for study, reflection, rest, and renewal – all ingredients for effective ministry. Just as importantly, the congregation benefits as Catherine returns refreshed, filled with new ideas and rekindled energy. Sabbatical time also offers the staff and congregation the opportunity to step up and fill some of Catherine's responsibilities while being exposed to some of the best speakers our denomination has to offer.

WHAT WILL CATHERINE BE DOING ON HER SABBATICAL?

Catherine's plans for her sabbatical center around rest and renewal after working since March 2020 with very little time off. She is also planning to travel to Australia to visit her family and preach at a few of our UU churches there. Finally, she will be taking time for spiritual retreat and exploring worship services at houses of worship (both UU and non-UU).

HOW CAN I CONTACT CATHERINE?

Sorry, but Catherine's sabbatical is a time for a complete break from her duties as our Minister. The network described in this brochure will adequately cover all Catherine's ministerial duties and responsibilities. The Sabbatical Committee stands ready to address all your needs and concerns!

SABBATICAL COMMITTEE

WORSHIP

Carol Robison

PASTORAL CARE

Michael Gardner

ADMINISTRATIVE

Jeanne McKinney



First Parish Church of Duxbury
Unitarian Universalist
P.O. Box 1764 Duxbury, MA 02331
Tel. 781 934 6532
uuduxbury@verizon.net
www.uuduxbury.org

SABBATICAL
INFORMATION
FOR
THE REVEREND
Catherine Cullen



First Parish Church
Unitarian Universalist
Duxbury, Massachusetts

SUNDAY SERVICES

During the sabbatical, Sunday services will prove to be very stimulating! Rev. Rob Kinslow, who is also a lifelong magician, has agreed to serve as Sabbatical Minister, preaching three times a month during Catherine's absence. Other Sundays will be filled by an outstanding roster of Unitarian Universalist preachers from around the area.

In addition, FPC Worship Associates have been trained to assist with making Sunday services run smoothly. Sunday services will be managed by staff, volunteers from the Sabbatical Committee, and by Worship Associates.

IN THE PULPIT

January 2	Worship Committee (<i>Catherine's Sabbatical begins</i>)
January 9	Rev. Rob Kinslow
January 16	Rev. Rob Kinslow (<i>MLK Sunday</i>)
January 23	Rev. Rob Kinslow
January 30	Guest
February 6	Rev. Rob Kinslow
February 13	Rev. Rob Kinslow
February 20	Rev. Rob Kinslow
February 27	Guest
March 6	Rev. Rob Kinslow
March 13	Annual Youth Service
March 20	Rev. Rob Kinslow
March 27	Rev. Rob. Kinslow
April 3	Rev. Rob Kinslow
April 10	Rev. Rob Kinslow
April 17	Easter - Catherine is 'resurrected' from Sabbatical



SABBATICAL MINISTER Rev. Rob Kinslow

Dear friends,

It will be an honor to serve as your sabbatical minister while Catherine is away for rest and renewal. As a minister who is also a lifelong magician, I often say amazing things happen when we follow our Unitarian Universalist principles. And lo and behold, you greet visitors to your website with, "Amazing things happen when we get together." A little bit of magic right there.

Many of the congregations my magical ministry has taken me to are in Southeastern Mass., including Attleboro, Bridgewater, Franklin, Norwell, Stoughton, and Taunton, where I completed my internship. My first career as a medical marketing strategist had its roots on the South Shore. When not guest preaching, I work with religious educators to teach UU MagicLab, a program I created. I'm very excited to be with you and can't wait. Until then, you can learn more about me at robkinslow.com.

Rev. Rob

PASTORAL CARE

Hospital visitations, home visitations or nursing home visitations will be provided by our Pastoral Care Team. Please contact our Pastoral Care Team Coordinator Michael Gardner who will assist you further. All contact information is on the back of this brochure.

For help with more tangible concerns (such as a ride to church, doctor, meals, etc.), please contact the Caring Connection Coordinator responsible for that month, as listed in the Bell-Ringer.

In the event of a critical pastoral emergency please contact Michael Gardner or Jim Hamilton, who will assist you further.

rites of passage

The Rev. Rob Kinslow will perform wedding ceremonies, funeral and memorial services. Please contact Church Administrator Lenore O'Malley, who will help you make the arrangements.

CHILD DEDICATIONS

Catherine will be performing our Spring Child Dedications in May when she returns.

