

The Bell-Ringer

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



JANUARY 2022



OUR ALL CHURCH THEME THIS MONTH IS **"LIVING WITH INTENTION"**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – ALL SUNDAY SERVICES ARE ONLY ON ZOOM FOR JANUARY!

January 9th – "A Covenant of Renewal" -- To revive one's spirit as the new year unfolds, consider a covenant of renewal—not promises to oneself but to one's highest ideals.

January 16th – "Dare to Dream" -- Martin Luther King had a bold dream. Do we? Good intentions become more likely to bear fruit when we know what we're aiming for.

January 23rd – "Living Our Promise: The Upside of Down Times" -- Unitarian Universalists are a small denomination tackling some of the biggest challenges of our time. How do we maintain our optimism?

January 30th – "Music In Worship: Singing With Intention" -- Singing has always been an important part of the worship experience. We will explore why that is and will discuss ways to make singing even more intentional by examining the spiritual practice of singing meditation. **Kenneth Langer** is a composer, conductor, writer, and music educator. He is a third-year UU seminarian at Starr King School for the Ministry.

COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY JAN 2

Worship 10:00am

MONDAY JAN 3

Bellringer Due Date

TUESDAY JAN 4

Bell Choir 3:30pm

THURSDAY JAN 6

Book Club 9:00am – Zoom

Worship/Music 7:00pm - Zoom

SUNDAY JAN. 9

Worship 10:00am – Zoom Only

MONDAY JAN. 10

SSHAGLY 7:00-9:00pm

TUESDAY JAN. 11

Bell Choir 3:30pm

WEDNESDAY JAN. 12

Trustees Meeting 7:00pm

THURSDAY JAN. 13

Book Club 9:00am - Zoom

FRIDAY JAN. 14

Yoga 11:00am

Knit 4 Peace 4:00pm



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

While I'm away on sabbatical, I leave you with these wise & wonderful words! — Catherine

*In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.
For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.
It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.
Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.*

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

Minister's Message continued from page 1 . . .

*Though your destination is not yet clear
 You can trust the promise of this opening;
 Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
 That is at one with your life's desire.
 Awaken your spirit to adventure;
 Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
 Soon you will home in a new rhythm,
 For your soul senses the world that awaits you. ---- John O'Donohue*



Governing Board

From the Governing Board: The President's Report

At the December Governing Board meeting, we heard updates on DARI (the Duxbury Afghan Resettlement Initiative) and learned that a family had arrived and is now in the parsonage.

Congratulations to all who are making this initiative a reality!

Related to the parsonage, the Governing Board voted to approve spending to replace the heating system. We also discussed the de-leading certification that had occurred many years back. Pursuant to that, the Governing Board will schedule an additional inspection because the paperwork for the prior inspection cannot be located.

In other developments:

- Governing Board member Mark Schlesinger (the Outreach liaison) is stepping down from the board. We thank Mark for his work on the board and wish him the best. The Governing Board will be working with the Nominating committee to find a replacement. In the meantime, chairs from the Outreach committees (Social Justice, Welcoming Congregation, Partner Church, and Communications) should reach out to me with any questions or concerns.
- Upon the recommendation of the Religious Education and Nominating committees we voted to add Regina McKinney to the Religious Education committee.
- The Governing Board received an update from past President Mary Flanagan who has been gathering materials from committees for a Policies and Procedures manual. If your committee has not submitted materials for this effort, you will likely be hearing from Mary or your Governing Board liaison about this. Please respond as soon as possible.
- The proceeds from December's Holiday Fair have now exceeded \$7,000! Many thanks to all of the volunteers and to everyone who donated items for the fair. It was a true community effort and we are deeply grateful.
- Following the Christmas Eve service I heard from several church members who expressed grave concerns that the performance by the Snug Harbor chorus did not follow our own Safe Congregations Covid protocols. The Governing Board will follow up with the Worship/Music and Safe Congregations committees to assure that such breaches do not occur again.
- The monthly 'Talk with the Governing Board' session will take place on January 23rd. Vice President Cindy Ladd Fiorini and Treasurer Karl Schweitzer 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.
- Keep an eye out for the committee chair meeting scheduled for Wednesday January 26th at 7 pm on Zoom. Details to follow soon.

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

It has been a little quiet recently regarding our Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century initiative as the congregation focused on our Holiday Fair and other December activities. Now with the new year upon us, we will be getting back to work to continue our discussions and get more specific about plans for the Meeting House. Keep in mind that our intent is to hold a special all-church meeting in the spring to decide how to proceed.

If you missed Scott Tayler's visit, the recording of the worship service and workshop is up on YouTube. The first part of the workshop 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.' You will find those very interesting. Check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4on8qeB8Quc>. (Note: Scott's sermon starts at around the 37th minute and the workshop begins just before the hour and a half mark.)

All the best,

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





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

Happy New Year! Hoping you all had a wonderful winter break filled with meaningful time spent with family and friends. As we move into the colder winter months, 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 SABBATICAL MINISTER Rev. Rob Kinslow to the pulpit. Stay tuned to see what Rev. Kinslow has in store for us for this month's Family Service.



We've added some new activities to the RE space, and the kids are having a blast diving into them. Thanks to PJ Simeone for his expert skills assembling a new playhouse.

Youth Group is continuing to meet weekly with our Youth Advisor, McKayla Hoffman. This month they will be thinking about ways they can have an impact in the broader community.

The RE Committee's December 6th "Parent's night out Fun Friday" event was a huge hit! Adults had a lovely dinner party gathering in the hall, while our kids enjoyed their own dinner and a holiday movie in the RE space. Many thanks to Regina Mortland, and Jay & Kathy Bray for their excellent child care services, without which we couldn't have had the event!



January's monthly theme is Intention. What intentions are you setting for the new year?

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.



Will You Take The Challenge?

The Social Justice Committee is hosting a 21-day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge. All are welcome. Spend 15 to 30 minutes a day "to become more aware, compassionate, constructive, engaged people in the quest for racial equity."

We will begin on January 3 and finish on January 24.

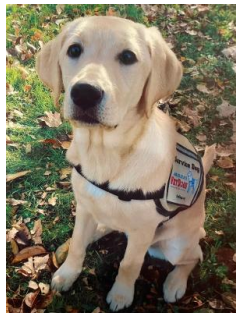
Here is the link:

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/labor_law/membership/equal_opportunity/

PLEASE NOTE: If you run into a pay wall with a reading, just put the author/title into Google and it will usually come up free.

Starting January 10th we will host Zoom meetings Mondays at 3:00PM to share what we have learned.

If you would like to join in, please contact
Donna Savicki (dsavicki@comcast.net or 781-585-8041).



Become Pen Pals With An Incarcerated Person

UU Mass Action recently introduced a pen pal program with the MA Department of Corrections. I signed up and am finding the experience very rewarding.

My pen pal responded almost immediately to my first letter. She is 59 and single, had a baby at 15, was incarcerated at 17, made parole at 42 but returned to prison at 48 for associating with an "ex-con" (her quotation marks). She has taken every possible program available to her at MCI Framingham and is a trainer for the Guide Dog Foundation. She enclosed a photo of the adorable 8-week old white lab she is currently training.

They are looking for more pen pals and I hope you will sign up. You determine the frequency with which you communicate, so it need not be burdensome. The program manager is available should you have any questions or concerns. For information about training (takes less than an hour) contact: Hale Powell at ["mascpenpal@uumassaction.org"](mailto:mascpenpal@uumassaction.org)

Donna Savicki
Board Member, UU Mass Action



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")



SHARE THE PLATE

Our Share the Plate recipient for this next month was nominated by Donna Savicki.

Share the Plate on January 16:

UU MASS ACTION

UU Mass Action both builds relationships with and centers the leadership of those who are most impacted by forms of oppression and injustice. Their current campaigns include:

Indigenous Justice
 Immigrant Justice
 Economic Justice
 Environmental Justice and Climate
 Decarceration and Ending Solitary Confinement

Please help UU Mass Action, one of the few multi-issue organizations in Massachusetts that work with coalition partners to confront oppression and create new just and equitable systems. For more information you can visit them at www.uumassaction.org

For the two weeks after the service you may go to uudux.org and click on the “Make a Donation to FPC Here!” button, or just click here [Home | First Parish Church Duxbury Giving \(myvanco.com\)](http://myvanco.com) to donate directly to the charity, or you may mail a check made out First Parish Church, P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, MA 02331, with the name of charity in the memo field. Thank you for your generosity!

One Sunday each month we Share the Plate by donating our entire non-pledge offering to a charity or justice organization. By reaching out and giving to the broader community, we are showing who we are and for what we stand, while cultivating a habit of generosity.

If you know of an organization that could use our donation, you can obtain a nomination form from the church office. Or you can find the online form by clicking [Make A Difference - First Parish Church Duxbury \(uudux.org\)](http://uudux.org) with the form link under the Share the Plate heading. You may then return the completed form to the church office, or email to uuduxbury@verizon.net.



Did you know?

Entering the Mainstream, Interpreting LGBTQ history at Museums and Historic Sites.

Join public historian Ken Turino as he discusses how museums have become more inclusive in telling LGBTQ stories. But challenges still remain. Wednesday, January 26, 2022 (7 pm, via Zoom meeting link). The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society wishes to encourage inclusion and accessibility so **tickets are free** (a suggested donation in any amount is encouraged).

Find a link here <https://duxburyhistory.org/events/entering-the-mainstream-interpreting-lgbtq-history/>



UU URBAN MINISTRY
presents

the **Treasures of the Meetinghouse** series

Visit www.uuum.org for all event details

Join us as we explore the treasures that live inside our historical Meetinghouse—the First Church Roxbury.

This will be a four part, virtual series that covers different points of interest with the help and insights of experts.

We hope you'll join us for Episode #03 of the series on
Monday, Jan. 10th at 6:00 P.M.:

Tick Tock: A Glimpse at the Historic Clocks of the Meetinghouse

(w/ Robert Cheney, executive director of the
Willard House & Clock Museum, and historian
Thomas Plant)

Event and Zoom info is on our website
or by using this link: bit.ly/uuumtreasures3



Co-sponsored by The Roxbury Historical Society

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SUNDAY JAN. 16

Worship 10:00am – Zoom only

Knit4Peace 11:30am

MONDAY JAN. 17

Office Closed

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

MLK Community Prayer Service

TUESDAY JAN. 18

Bell Choir 3:30pm

WEDNESDAY JAN. 19

Reading with a Purpose Book Group – 7:00pm - Zoom

THURSDAY JAN 20

Book Club 9:00am - Zoom

Governing Board Meeting

7:00pm - Zoom

SUNDAY JAN. 23

Worship 10:00am – Zoom only

MONDAY JAN. 24

BELL RINGER DUE DATE

R.E. Meeting – Zoom

PFLAG 7:00pm– Zoom

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

TUESDAY JAN 25

Bell Choir 3:30pm

WEDNESDAY JAN. 26

COMMITTEE CHAIR MTG.

7:00PM -- ZOOM

THURSDAY JAN. 27

Book Club 9:00am - Zoom

SUNDAY JAN. 30

Worship 10:00am – Zoom only



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 months of **JAN. & FEB.**, please contact **DEB WORSH** at 781-837-9030, DEBORAHWORSH@GMAIL.COM.

Minister's Office Hours:

Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen is currently on sabbatical. For pastoral or other concerns please contact our **Sabbatical Committee Chair, Michael Gardner** at 617-833-9606, sgmgardner4746@gmail.com.



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.



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 4:00 p.m.

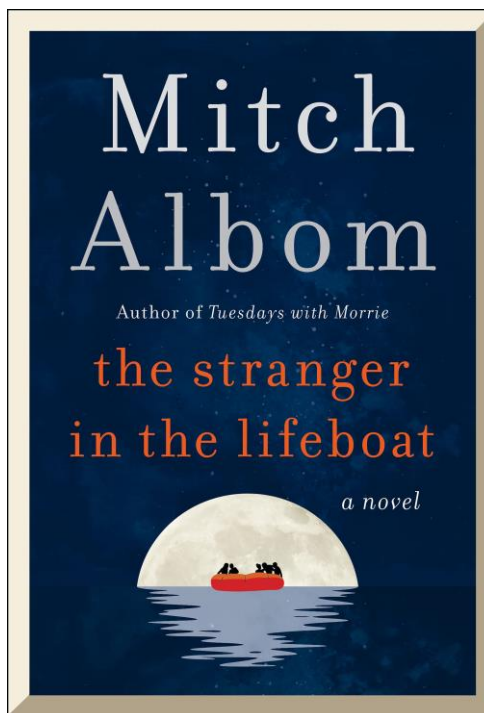
Communications 7:00pm

(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)**Reading With a Purpose - JANUARY!!**

The Growth Team is inviting all interested readers to join us in **reading Mitch Albom's newest book, the stranger in the lifeboat**. We will be discussing it via zoom on **Wednesday, January 19 at 7 pm**. Please feel free to invite your family and friends to join us. This book should be really interesting to discuss.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Fiorini, claddfiorini@gmail.com or 617-921-6224



February Bell Ringer Deadline
January 24TH, 2022



Cell Funds Available for Social Justice Organizations

The Cell Fund Committee is seeking applications from church members for grants to social justice organizations. The grant application form is available on the First Parish Church website and should be forwarded to Lenore at the church office.

If you need assistance or have questions regarding social justice cell grants, please contact Sally Delisa (delisasally@yahoo.com or call 781-834-6851).

Applications for this year's first funding round are due by January 15.

Our Theme for January:

