

# The Bell-Ringer

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



MARCH 2022



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

THEME FOR MARCH IS **"RENEWING FAITH"**.

**March 6th – "A Faith of Mystery"** -- Miracles and other unexplainable phenomena are sometimes referred to as "mysteries of faith." But what if mystery itself were the faith?

**March 13th – "Annual Youth Service"** -- **"Our Dream Embodied"** -- Sometimes, change can be difficult, especially when we search for the familiar worlds we knew before times of crisis, like the COVID-19 pandemic. And, there is so much that can be gained if we embrace new opportunities, open our minds to the array of beauty and possibility in our world, and let go of what no longer serves. Join the youth group for a visual, tactile, and musical experience that exemplifies the dream they have for the ways that church can be.

**March 20 -- "Purim: Backstage with God"** -- Purim commemorates a time when Jewish people were saved from a threat of national genocide. It's also an example of God working behind the scenes. Maybe God still does.

**March 27 – "The Most Important Day"** -- Many events in Unitarian and Universalist history have inspired our faith. Is there one that rises above the rest to inspire us still? What might that be?

## COMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 2

Bell Choir 4:00pm

### THURSDAY MARCH 4

Worship/Music 7:00pm

### SUNDAY MARCH 6

Worship 10:00am - In person and Zoom

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 9

Bell Choir 4:00pm

### SUNDAY MARCH 13

**YOUTH SERVICE - 10:00am**

### MONDAY MARCH 14

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

Bell Choir 4:00pm

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

### THURSDAY MARCH 17

Governing Board 7:00pm

St. Patrick's Day 🍀

### THURSDAY MARCH 18

**FUN FRIDAY**

**PURIM PARTY**

### SATURDAY MARCH 19

South Shore Folk Group Concert  
7:00pm

(Continued on page 6)



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

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

*You do not have to be good.*

*You do not have to walk on your knees*

*for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.*

*You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.*

*Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.*

*Meanwhile the world goes on.*

*Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.*

*Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.*

*Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting –  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.*

— Mary Oliver

## ***First Parish Church***

***Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts***

**P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331**

**842 Tremont St. (Route 3A)**

**Email: [uuduxbury@verizon.net](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net)**

**Telephone: 781-934-6532**

**Website: [www.duxburyuu.org](http://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**



### **Mark Your Calendars for the Service Auction: Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>!**

The Service Auction and Dinner is always a fun evening with an amazing gourmet meal prepared by our renowned First Parish Church chefs, led by the incomparable Ian Campbell. Dinner is followed by marvelous desserts supplied by our celebrated First Parish Church bakers. After dinner we will auction off services, vacation stays, dinners, adventures, and many more items, all donated by First Parish Church members and friends. And this year for the first time we will have a virtual component for those folks who wish to participate in the auction, but don't wish to attend the dinner. Stay tuned for more details soon!

We'll also have childcare and fun activities downstairs for the kids.

You can sign up for tickets now. The price (a steal) is \$15 per person. You can get tickets after church at coffee hour or you can reserve them by calling Lenore in the office at 781-934-6532 or contacting Sharon Nabreski, [snabreski@me.com](mailto:snabreski@me.com).

Seating is limited so don't dawdle. Tickets have sold out in the past.

And of course we need your donations of fabulous service ideas for the auction. Do you have a skill or service or other item that you would like to offer in the auction? Send your idea with a short description to Sharon Nabreski ([snabreski@me.com](mailto:snabreski@me.com)) or Jim Hamilton ([jim@greenharbor.com](mailto:jim@greenharbor.com)).

# Governing Board

## **From the Governing Board: The President's Report**

In my last Bell Ringer report, I misstated the name of the person behind a recent financial donation to the church. He is the late James A. Hamilton (a former church member whose name you may recognize from the bookplates in the hymnals). His descendants made a donation to the church from their grandmother's trust fund in the amount of \$3,585. This money will go to the trust fund responsible for paying for ministerial interns.

The Pandemic Fundraising working group, of which I am a member (along with Jay Bray, Sharon Nabreski, Pat Slechta, and Tracy Wagner), is moving forward with plans for a hybrid Service Auction event to take place in April. See elsewhere in the Bell Ringer for more information. We are also confident that we will be able to have the Summer Fair this year. Start collecting your stuff!

Regarding the parsonage, the Governing Board voted by e-mail prior to our February meeting to approve two expenditures. One was to start the process for de-leading certification. I can now report that the interior work is complete. The external work is yet to be done and will happen this spring. The Governing Board also voted to approve the installation of a fence that will allow a safe place for children to play without concern from 3A traffic.

Elsewhere in the Bell Ringer you will see an update from me about the Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century survey that was conducted in February.

Something you may not know is that I run the church's Twitter account (@uuduxfpc). If you are on Twitter, please consider following us.

The monthly 'Talk with the Governing Board' session will take place on Sunday March 20th. Vice President Cindy Ladd Fiorini will be joined with Governing Board Sunday Morning Liaison Sally Delisa to take questions after church both in-person and by Zoom.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

All the best,  
Jim Hamilton, Governing Board President  
781-724-6456, [jim@greenharbor.com](mailto:jim@greenharbor.com)





## **Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century February 2022 Survey Results**

In February, the Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century put out a survey on our historic tablets and the wording on the crown molding above the pulpit. We were looking to narrow down the various possibilities that arise based on the consensus from the November workshop with consultant Scott Tayler that the historic tablets should be moved or covered.

At a recent church-wide Zoom meeting, we presented the results of that survey. The full presentation can be found at [Envisioning Survey](#). Here is a short summary of those results:

- Sixty-three people responded to the survey
- Nearly three quarters of respondents wanted the tablets removed
- More than half wanted the tablets to be put in storage while we consider a more permanent solution while 27% would like to see them displayed somewhere on church property
- Asked about what should go in their place, a third of respondents thought it should be meaningful words or phrases from the UU tradition while about a quarter preferred symbolic artwork such as a chalice; another 18% suggested nothing be put in their place
- While deciding what to put in their place, two thirds wanted to take the tablets down and paint the walls white (leaving them blank in the interim) while about thirteen percent wanted to see them covered with a temporary piece of drapery or artwork
- Regarding the crown molding, nearly half wanted to replace the words with a UU statement of welcome or spirituality while about 24% thought we should remove the crown molding entirely
- Regarding the drapes behind the pulpit, nearly 35% thought that the drapes should be removed as well while 27% wanted to see them replaced with something else
- Asked for additional comments, 41 of the 63 respondents made a statement (see the PDF for more detail on that)

As for next steps, the working group will develop a draft proposal and circulate it for feedback. We encourage you to submit your proposals to the working group during this process. The working group will then finalize a proposal and bring it as a motion to be voted on at a special meeting of the parish to take place early in May.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of the working group.

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 (on sabbatical), Caroline Mitchell, Dorothy Pilla, Carol Robison, Emily Simeone, and Tracy Wagner





Spring is in the air, can you feel it? Even as the snow falls as I write this, the days are lengthening and the sun is getting strong. The Omicron Variant of Covid is winding down and we are gathering in-person more and more.



Our theme this month is Renewing Faith, and we'll be exploring that in RE by focusing on our Principles and Sources. In RE we refer to our Principles as our "Rainbow Promises" to help us remember them. Here's our "cheat sheet" to help YOU remember them!

This month we are bringing back our monthly multigenerational Fun Fridays with a Purim Party co-sponsored by Shirat-Hayam. So, what is Purim?

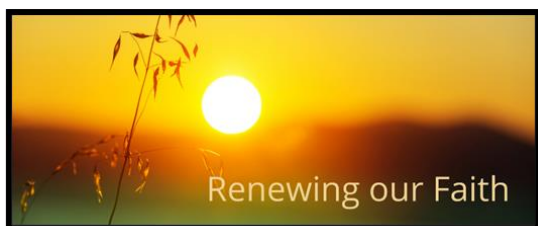
It is a Jewish festival commemorating the survival of the Jews who, in the 5th century BCE, were marked for death by their Persian rulers. The story is related in the biblical Book of Esther and its main theme is about triumphing over adversity. Kids and adults have tons of fun at these events, doing crafts, making Purim baskets, playing games and making noise-makers. Fun for all ages!



RSVP Required:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ej19frac61876dbf&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Youth Group has been busy planning their Youth Service for March 13<sup>th</sup> -- "Our Dream Embodied" is the title of the service and reflects the worship experience our youth dream of. Change can be difficult, especially when we search for the familiar worlds we knew before times of crisis, like the COVID-19 pandemic. And, there is so much that can be gained if we embrace new opportunities, open our minds to the array of beauty and possibility in our world, and let go of what no longer serves. Please join the youth group for a visual, tactile, and musical experience that exemplifies the dream they have for the ways that church can be.



*How are you going to renew YOUR FAITH  
this month in this Beloved Community?  
Peace & Blessings, Kate*



## ***Ring Out Justice!***

### **News of Social Justice Activities at First Parish Church**

#### **Social / Racial / Environmental Justice at First Parish Church**

*The mission of the Social Justice Committee is to provide opportunities for First Parish Church members to promote justice through service, education, and advocacy.*

The memberships of Social, Racial and Environmental Justice have merged into a “leaderful” coalition. Jeanne Penvenne and Carrie Meier co-chair the overarching Social Justice Committee. Donna Savicki and Cindy Ladd Fiorini lead various initiatives in racial and environmental justice. All First Parish members and friends are welcome to join and participate in these activities. If you interested in joining us please contact Donna Savicki (781-585-8041 or [dsavicki@comcast.net](mailto:dsavicki@comcast.net)) or just attend any of our meetings. We meet at 9 AM the second Sunday of the month. Depending upon COVID protocols we meet in person in the Harvey Assembly Hall with hybrid ZOOM coverage or just on ZOOM. Please come!

As we move into Women’s History Month, and celebrate International Women’s Day on 8 March, we honor the world’s women. They are often the poorest and most burdened, but they manage to raise generations of our world’s children with hope and joy. May we learn how best to support them, for everyone’s sake.

Thanks to Rev. Rob Kinslow, First Parish services have honored Black History Month through a myriad of lenses, from Jazz to Quilts. Here we share the Quilt of Disquiet read by First Parish members at the service on 20 February, and “Another Quilt of Disquiet,” crafted by Rev. Rob that informs the larger project of seeking a more just and equitable world.

# The Quilt of Disquiet

(a patchwork of thought provocation)

<p>There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now.</p> <p><b>James Baldwin</b></p>	<p>The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.</p> <p><b>Martin Luther King, Jr.</b></p>	<p>It is not enough to be compassionate. You must act.</p> <p><b>The Dalai Lama</b></p>	
<p>America was not a Democracy until Black Americans made it one.</p> <p><b>Nikole Hannah-Jones</b></p>	<p>When the media misrepresents Black men, the effects are felt in the real world.</p> <p><b>Leigh Donaldson</b></p>	<p>The worst part of slavery was the narrative...that Black people aren't fully human.</p> <p><b>Bryan Stevenson</b></p>	<p>If it is going to be it starts with me.</p> <p><b>Cory Booker</b></p>
<p>What did your teacher help you see that was once invisible? What did your teacher help you hear that was once silent?</p> <p><b>Anne Sullivan &amp; Helen Keller</b></p>	<p>I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc is a long one.... from what I see I am sure it bends toward justice.</p> <p><b>Theodore Parker</b></p>	<p>Our crown has already been bought and paid for. All we have to do is wear it.</p> <p><b>James Baldwin</b></p>	<p>The power of the remembered past to shape the imagined future.</p> <p><b>Martin Murray</b></p>
<p>The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.</p> <p><b>Frederick Douglass</b></p>	<p>Power cedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will.</p> <p><b>Frederick Douglass</b></p>	<p>Love is, or it ain't...</p> <p><b>Toni Morrison</b></p>	<p>What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it.</p> <p><b>Maya Angelou</b></p>

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# Sources



<p>ACLU magazine, Spring 2022, p. 7.</p>	<p>The Today Show, NBC <a href="https://www.today.com/tmrw/who-chooses-history-textbooks-t190833">https://www.today.com/tmrw/who-chooses-history-textbooks-t190833</a></p>	<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/</a></p>	<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/</a></p>
<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/</a></p>	<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/</a></p>	<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/</a></p>	<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/</a></p>
<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/</a></p>	<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/05/04/is-the-united-states-a-racist-country/</a></p>	<p>Statista <a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/585152/people-shot-to-death-by-us-police-by-race/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/585152/people-shot-to-death-by-us-police-by-race/</a></p>	<p>Education Week <a href="https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-is-critical-race-theory-and-why-is-it-under-attack/2021/05">https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-is-critical-race-theory-and-why-is-it-under-attack/2021/05</a></p> <p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/07/02/why-are-states-banning-critical-race-theory/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/07/02/why-are-states-banning-critical-race-theory/</a></p>
<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/07/02/why-are-states-banning-critical-race-theory/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/07/02/why-are-states-banning-critical-race-theory/</a></p>	<p>The Brookings Institution <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/07/02/why-are-states-banning-critical-race-theory/">https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2021/07/02/why-are-states-banning-critical-race-theory/</a></p>	<p>The White House <a href="https://www.whitehousehistory.org/slavery-in-the-presidents-neighborhood-faq#:~:text=A%3A%20According%20to%20surviving%20documentation%2C%20at%20least%20twelve%20presidents%20were,Andrew%20Johnson%2C%20and%20Ulysses%20S.">https://www.whitehousehistory.org/slavery-in-the-presidents-neighborhood-faq#:~:text=A%3A%20According%20to%20surviving%20documentation%2C%20at%20least%20twelve%20presidents%20were,Andrew%20Johnson%2C%20and%20Ulysses%20S.</a></p>	<p>Pew Research Center <a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2019/04/09/views-of-racial-inequality/">https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2019/04/09/views-of-racial-inequality/</a></p>



## **PLYMOUTH LUNCHES FOR THOSE IN NEED**

For many months now FPC members have been working with Bob Hughes and Donna Savicki to provide healthy lunches to the homeless and others in need in Plymouth every Tuesday. All the slots for March are filled, but we still need individually wrapped desserts in April.

*See the church's website for details about the program.*

**SIGN UP HERE!!**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aRoaqecyIlg9red1JCipIo6NloL\\_1l7H8vtxxedKXek/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aRoaqecyIlg9red1JCipIo6NloL_1l7H8vtxxedKXek/edit)

Questions? please call Sherry Gardner 617-650-7473

**THANK YOU!**



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION



**UUSC**

### **UUSC Thanks Participants of Annual Guest at Your Table Program**

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee or UUSC would like to thank First Parish Church Duxbury for its (FY22) contribution of \$2,560 towards its annual outreach giving program, Guest At Your Table. UUSC works in more than 20 countries with over 60 grassroots organizations and thousands of individuals participate in and benefit from UUSC programs. UUSC is grateful for the generosity of our community.

*Thank You!*



## NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

**Our Share the Plate recipient for this next month will be National Center for Lesbian Rights, nominated by Mary Flanagan.**

### **Share the Plate on March 20**

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is the first national LGBTQ legal organization founded by women and brings a fierce, longstanding commitment to racial and economic justice and our community's most vulnerable.

Since 1977, NCLR has been at the forefront of advancing the civil and human rights of our full LGBTQ community and their families through impact litigation, public policy, and public education. Decades ago, NCLR led the way by establishing the first LGBTQ Immigration Project, Transgender Rights Project, Youth Project, Elder Law Project, and began working to end conversion therapy through what is now the Born Perfect campaign.

Please help this organization to fulfill its mission. For more information you can visit them at [National Center for Lesbian Rights \(nclrights.org\)](http://NationalCenterforLesbianRights(nclrights.org)). For the two weeks after the service you may go to [uudux.org](http://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://Home|FirstParishChurchDuxburyGiving(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://MakeADifference-FirstParishChurchDuxbury(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](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net).



### **Homeless Count in Brockton Thank you!**

Good day everyone! Please accept this letter as a heartfelt thank you for your generosity helping out through donating winter warmth for Brockton's people in need.

This past Wednesday was the annual statewide homeless count. I volunteered helping along side representatives from the Brockton mayor's office of social services, management from Father Bill's Mainspring House, and volunteers from the local veteran's hospital.

From 6:30 to 11:00pm we covered different sections of Brockton where people are in need of housing, drug and alcohol rehab, as well as psychological assistance. We walked along the train tracks leading to the old tent city, behind shopping malls and through woods leading to abandoned factory buildings. It was cold and wet, remnants of last week's storm.

We met up with people sleeping in home made tents and distributed blankets, backpacks filled with hats, gloves, bag lunches and health products. We spoke with them, asking about their origins, needs and if they would like food or any assistance. A few were willing to talk and accepted a backpack while some refused any assistance.

Yes, there were those who are in need of housing and there are those who need psychological help as well. I noticed empty alcohol containers as well as empty packets of Narcan.

This to me was disturbing, it used to be homelessness was a matter of someone temporarily down on their luck or out of a job. There is a lot of work to be done to help these individuals and families obtain the help they need through volunteer programs as well as government programs that are paid via tax revenue that is not getting through to them.

I'm not talking about socialism, this is a humanitarian issue that has not been addressed the way it should be.

Once again, thanks to all for your amazing generosity in helping better the lives of people that cannot do it by themselves.

Thankful to have a roof over my head and food in my belly!

**Peace, Bob Hughes**

1 (Continued from page 1)

**SUNDAY MARCH 20**

Worship 10:00am

**First Day of Spring!** 

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 23**

Bell Choir 4:00pm

**THURSDAY MARCH 24**

**APRIL BELL RINGER DUE  
DATE**

**SUNDAY MARCH 27**

Worship 10:00 a.m.

**MONDAY MARCH 28**

R.E. Meeting 7:00pm

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

PFLAG 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 30**

Bell Choir 4:00p.m.



**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 **MARCH**, please contact **KATHY BRAY**, [kbray8832@gmail.com](mailto:kbray8832@gmail.com), 339-793-0073.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net) if you need anything.



**April Bell-Ringer Deadline**  
**Thursday, March 24th**



### **ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS** **SUNDAYS –**

Family/Child Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. each month)  
Joys & Concerns (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. each month)  
Announcement Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. each month)  
Silent Joys & Concerns (4<sup>th</sup> Sun. each month)  
Membership 9:00am (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. each month)  
Music Committee (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. each month) 12 p.m.  
Social Justice 9 a.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. each month)

### **MONDAYS –**

Building Use 10 a.m.  
(4<sup>th</sup> Mon. each month)  
Historical Committee 10:30a.m.  
(1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month)  
Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. each month)  
Welcoming Congregation 7:00pm  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month)  
PFLAG – 7:30-9:00pm  
(4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month)  
RE Committee 7:00pm (4<sup>th</sup> Mon. each month)

### **TUESDAYS –**

Communications 7:00pm  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month)

### **WEDNESDAYS –**

Staff meeting 11:30 a.m. (weekly)  
Buildings & Grounds 9-11 a.m.  
(1<sup>st</sup> Wed. each month)  
"Kindred Spirits" 10:00 -11:30 a.m.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. each month)  
Hand Bells 4:00 p.m.

### **THURSDAYS –**

Book Group 9 a.m.  
Worship Committee 7:00 p.m.  
(1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. each month)  
Agenda Setting 7-8 p.m.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. each month)  
Governing Board 7 p.m.  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. each month)

**FRIDAYS -** Committee on Ministry  
5 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Fri. each month)

**SATURDAYS –** Community Table  
9:15 a.m. (4<sup>th</sup> Sat. each month)



### **FUN Friday Purim Party, March 18th 5:30-7pm**

Purim is a festive Jewish holiday where we celebrate with costumes, noisemakers, and parties.

Purim commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from a threat of national genocide. The story involves the brave Queen Esther, her uncle Mordechai, King Ahasuerus and the evil Haman. Haman, angry that Mordechai would not bow down to him, asked King Ahasuerus to allow the extermination of the Jews in Persia. However, Queen Esther, who has not yet revealed to the king that she is Jewish, approaches him and reminds him of how Mordechai, a Jew, once saved his life. Because the Jews of Persia were saved and Haman was punished, Purim became a holiday full of joy and happiness. Along with parades and costumes, we celebrate Purim by engaging in charitable acts and sending gifts of food to family and friends. As is customary for most Jewish holidays, there's also a special dinner, often including hamantaschen, a sweet three-cornered pastry filled with jam.

### **Link for Registration:**

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ej19fraq61876dbf&oseq=&c=&ch=>

# *Generosity is the Foundation of our Community!*

**First Parish Pledge Drive 2022  
Kickoff April 3rd!**



Dear First Parish Friend,

We hope this letter finds you safe and healthy!

After the past two years, we can imagine that most of you are probably more than ready to turn the page and start anew (we said this last year-little did we know!).

Our theme for 2022 is **“Generosity is the Foundation of our Church Community”**. We see this in so many places around our church, but this year the best testament of our values and generosity was the unanimous vote to host an Afghan family in our parsonage. In good times and bad, FPC is a place that holds the light. We hope that with your help we will be able to continue programing that brings us together now and for future generations.

A church is just a building without its people, and without your pledge and stewardship, FPC simply would not exist. We are proud to fly our rainbow flag and display the Black Lives Matter sign as beacons of justice and tools for change. This is important work and thanks to you our positive impacts through volunteerism, grant money, religious education and ministry is felt way beyond our hometowns.

This spring we ask our church community to live their values and financially commit to First Parish Church. Your financial support plays a critical role in the work we are called to do and we hope that if you can be generous this year you will! **Pledge cards will be coming in the mail early March or if you are ready you can pledge online below!**

In Faith,  
Nancy Ovaska, Mary Flanagan, Tracy Wagner, Pat Slechta

**[Pledge Online 2022](#)**

**[Pledge Guide](#)**



**Save the Date!!!**  
**Summer Fair 2022**  
**Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>!!!**

The tents are rented, and the Fundraising Task Force is beyond hopeful that after a two year hiatus the fair will be back this spring!

The success of this event depends on volunteerism, not just on the day, but in the weeks leading up to the fair. It is a fun way to get to know fellow church members and the broader community. We hope that you will consider helping out this year-we need you!!

Secondly, we need stuff to sell! We hope you have been saving your treasures. As spring approaches, we will have more information to share.





### **How the Tablets Came to Be** **By Carol Robison**

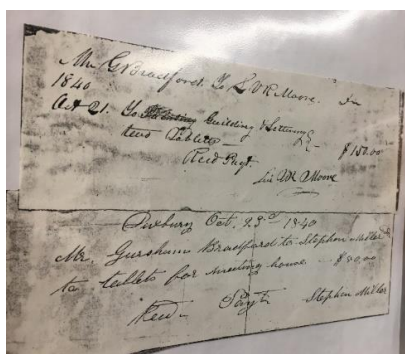
In 1840, the winds of change had been sweeping through Duxbury, altering life in this quiet seaside village in profound ways. Enterprising members of the community had built substantial fortunes from the sea by building the finest of ships and sailing them to the four corners of the globe. The entire community was prospering economically, and exposure to diverse cultures had expanded their worldview.

A decade or so earlier, the religious landscape in town had shifted with the separation of church and state. For the first time in its history, First Parish was on its own financially. The church had already converted to Unitarianism under the spiritual guidance of the much beloved Rev. John Allyn. A number of parishioners abandoned First Parish in favor of newly established Methodist, Universalist, and Congregationalist churches on Washington Street. The remaining FPCers were largely first family descendants and shipbuilders and ship captains. They were people of means, forward-thinking in many ways, but resistant to any change that threatened their newly-achieved station in life.

By the late 1830s, some of the wealthier members had become dissatisfied with the perfectly serviceable Third Meeting House (1785). With a great deal of hubris and a blind eye to future costs, they lobbied for a grand new building, one more in line with their exalted status. The vote was close. They prevailed, but not without controversy. The old building was torn down, and our beautiful Fourth Meeting House, in the Greek Revival style, was constructed in its place.

Captain Gershom Bradford's tenure as the congregation's treasurer spanned the years leading up to and following the construction of the new building. His most enduring - and visible - contribution to the project was the commissioning of the two imposing tablets, filled with some of his favorite Bible verses, that flank the pulpit. Why these particular verses? We can only speculate. What we do know about him is that he was a master mariner. He went to sea at age 17 on board one of his older brother's ships. By the time he retired in 1826 after 35 years, he had commanded at least 10 ships. His wife Sally and three of their four daughters were active in the abolitionist movement. They also corresponded with and hosted many of the transcendentalist luminaries of the time.

When the dedication of the new building took place on October 28, 1840, the tablets had just been finished and presumably hung. We have the receipts:



Gershom Bradford paid S. V. R. Moore \$150 on October 21, 1840 for gilding and lettering two tablets.

Gershom Bradford paid Stephen Miller \$50 on October 23, 1840 for making the tablets.

\$200 in 1840 = \$6,463 in 2022.

The tablets are finely crafted works of art. The lettering is a perfect rendering of the King James Bible, right down to the spelling and punctuation. I do wonder why one of the 10 commandments (no graven images) is missing. Did the artisan just overlook it, or was it left out on purpose - ?

A thread that runs through our history is openness to change. We have always evolved with the times and the needs of the congregation. Unitarianism developed in the early 1800s as a theological alternative to Calvinism. The tablets are actually evidence of this, 1840s-style. A weighty topic for another *Bell-Ringer*!

