

The Bell-Ringer

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*This Month's All-Church Theme is **"HOLDING HISTORY"**.*

Nov. 7 -- "A Meetinghouse For the 21st Century" -- Catherine will be joined by Rev. Scott Tayler, our consultant for the "Envisioning the Meetinghouse For the 21st Century" initiative! Following worship Scott will lead us in a workshop (hybrid style!). **PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SUNDAY MORNINGS THIS CHURCH YEAR!**

Nov. 14 -- "Who Sits at the Welcome Table?" - The Welcoming Congregation and McKayla Hoffman (they/them), youth advisor, invite you all to celebrate the practice of radical, innovative welcome! Since the 60's (and earlier!), justice-seekers and builders have worked to dismantle what keeps marginalized people from the core of society, including racism, homophobia, sexism, and more. UUs have been a part of this work for many decades, particularly when it comes to the LGBTQIA+ community. This morning, join us as we explore how First Parish Duxbury can continue actively expanding welcome to the LGBTQIA+ community with new practices.

Nov. 21 -- "The Rest of the Thanksgiving Story" -- This time of year our focus is usually on the story of our Pilgrim ancestors. Let's consider the story of the Native folks on that first Thanksgiving, especially the abundance of their spiritual gifts. (SPECIAL MUSIC)

Nov. 28th--Catherine will be joined by legislator and author **Rep Josh Cutler**, whose latest book tells the story of Unitarian abolitionist Maria Chapman and the Abolition Riot of 1835.

COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1

Knit4Peace 10:00am

Bell Choir 3:30pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4

Book Club 9:00am Zoom

Worship/Music 7:00pm Zoom

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5

BAY PLAYERS PERFORMANCE
8:00pm

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6

BAY PLAYERS PERFORMANCE
8:00pm

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1

Worship 10:00am – Zoom

BAY PLAYERS PERFORMANCE
3:00pm

MONDAY NOVEMBER 8

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9

Bell Choir 3:30pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11

VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVED
OFFICE CLOSED

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

[The Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century](#) Task Force will establish and conduct a process whereby the entire church membership can engage in discernment about the appearance of the Meeting House interior, focusing on the area behind the pulpit. Included will be consideration of the two large tablets mounted on the wall behind the pulpit, the wooden cornice which has text on it, and the possible incorporation of Unitarian Universalist religious symbols. The Task Force will identify and work with an appropriate professional who will consult and facilitate the process. To afford ample time for conversations and considerations, this process will take place over at least two church years..(from FPC Governing Board minutes)

Dear Friends

Our "Envisioning the Meeting House" Task Force has been working on this important initiative for the past two years----but Covid 19 interrupted our work! Several months ago, we resumed meeting with our talented consultant, Scott Tayler----**AND FINALLY OUR BIG WEEKEND WITH SCOTT IS HERE!!**

(Continued on page 2)

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

Minister's Message continued from page 1 . . .

Scott will be joining us live and in person the weekend of November 6th & 7th. He'll be meeting for breakfast with the Task Force on Saturday (we have been meeting by Zoom) and later that day we'll all enjoy a "Wine & Cheese with Scott," *an opportunity for some social time together and conversation about our beautiful Meetinghouse and dreams for its future!*

On Sunday morning I'll share the pulpit with Scott—following worship Scott will lead us in a hybrid workshop to move us along to the next phase of our discernment as outlined above in the charge.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AS MANY OF THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THIS IMPORTANT WEEKEND AS YOU CAN...

Several years ago, on the occasion of the 375th anniversary of our beloved congregation, the late Rev Dr. Peter Gomes ended his wonderful sermon with these words: "*May your future be worthy of your past.*" ***Friends, this year, with Scott's guidance, we'll live out that invitation by truly envisioning possibilities for our Meetinghouse as a twenty-first century house of worship---HOW EXCITING!!***

Catherine



Governing Board

From the Governing Board: The President's Report

October was a very busy month. By the time you see this, we will have completed the first of three planned meetings of committee chairs. Also in the past by then will be the special meeting on the topic of supporting the Duxbury Afghani Resettlement Initiative (DARI) by providing our parsonage as a temporary living space for a family of Afghani refugees.

At our October meeting, the Governing Board approved the setting of a date for that special DARI meeting. Other votes included the approval of Peter Nappellio taking on a role as one of our Assistant Treasurers as recommended by the Nominating Committee. We also voted to approve Saturday December 4th as the date of our Holiday Fair.

Pat Slechta and I were the Governing Board representatives on Sunday October 17th for the monthly 'Talk with the Governing Board' session. I stayed with the Zoom folks and Pat went to coffee hour. In November (on the 21st) Vice President Cindy Ladd-Fiorini and Physical Plant Liaison Lester Lloyd 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.

The board continues to work on drafting our goals for the 2021-2022 church year. I expect these to be finalized at our next meeting. Key among our goals is a focus on communication and transparency. My monthly Bell Ringer article is one part of that, but the committee chair meetings and the 'Talk with the Governing Board' sessions are also important components. Through the liaisons, we are also working to update the committee chair organizational chart with the appropriate chair designees and contact information. We will share a draft of this at the first committee chair meeting and will make it available once that draft is finalized.

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.





Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century Events!

On Sunday November 7th, Scott Tayler (the consultant who has been helping us with the Envisioning process) will be in Duxbury for our worship service and a special after-church workshop. You also will have the chance to meet him at a wine and cheese party late on Saturday afternoon November 6th (more information to follow).

By now, many of you will have submitted comments or participated in a session on the Five Envisioning Questions about our meeting house. If you haven't done so yet, you can still fill out the Google Docs questionnaire that we created for this purpose: <https://forms.gle/7964gcx84NzGDq4M9>. You will also find this link on our web site. If you have any difficulty accessing it, just send me an e-mail to me at jim@greenharbor.com and I'll get it to you right away. For a short video explaining the questions, see: <https://youtu.be/gq3zAtogX0Q> on our church YouTube page.

I also hope that you have been enjoying the Envisioning testimonials that have been presented at each worship service in October. These activities are all a part of getting the congregation thinking about the possibilities we have to make our meeting house appealing and vibrant as we move deeper into the 21st Century.

All the best,

Jim Hamilton

Chair, Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century Task Force

Also on the Task Force are Elaine Bryant, Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, Caroline Mitchell, Dorothy Pilla, Carol Robison, Emily Simeone, and Tracy Wagner

What's Happening in Religious Education?



As I write this it is finally feeling like Fall and I'm looking forward to our First Fun Friday event -- an old-fashioned campfire with all the fixins! We will even have Katy Boc Nickerson and friend provide some festive music! The RE committee is committed to bringing our community together for fun Multigenerational events when we can. So, stay tuned!

The RE committee also decided that while we are still in hybrid worship mode, we will return to having the kids begin their Sunday mornings in the RE space, with the exception of one family Sunday each month. On family Sunday we will all begin in the Sanctuary, and the kids will be escorted out after

10 minutes or so to participate in our **WOODLAND WONDERLAND** RE program. We've already begun to explore our church grounds with kaleidoscopes and nature scavenger hunts. The kids have decorated their Nature Backpacks and are collecting our weekly exploration tools in their bags. What do you think we found when looking really, really close up?



We continue to meet weekly on Sundays with our Youth. This year our theme is: "drawing the circle wide." We'll be asking the youth how they'd like to engage with the church, whether Caring Committee on the work they do to send cards, baked goods, etc, to those in the congregation in need, or the Social Justice Working Group, making lunches, and more! We've also noticed that some of the youth are very

interested in big moral questions, so we're beginning a 30 minute pre-meeting time to talk about the big things. Our youth have so much on their minds as they try to figure out who they are and what their place in their community is. McKayla and I are committed to providing a loving, non-judgemental space for them to explore safely "all the things."

This month our Soul Matters theme is **Holding History**, which is so appropriate as we dive deeper into envisioning the Sanctuary for the 21st Century!

Love & 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.



UUSC'S Guest At Your Table

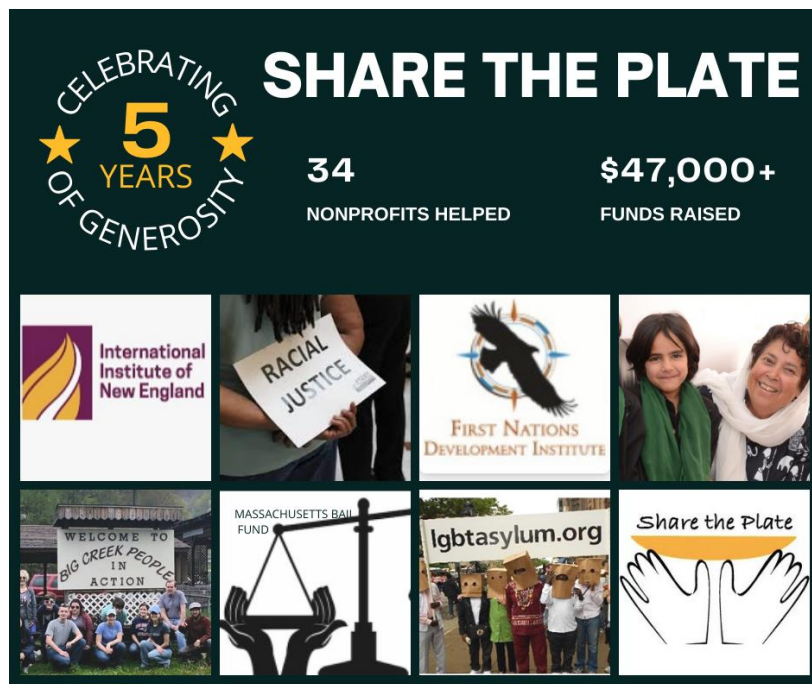
Share the Plate Recipient for November 21

On November 21st, First Parish Church will honor and celebrate our human rights organization, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), through its fund- raising campaign, Guest At Your Table (GAYT).

UUSC works in more than 20 countries, partnering with over 60 grassroots organizations. Thousands of individuals participate in and benefit from UUSC programs.

During this year's GAYT, we invite you to witness stories of our partners around the world as they tell you about home. **Our partners in Central America** are working to make sure no one is forced to flee their home due to violence or economic devastation. **Our partners in Alaska, Louisiana, and the Pacific** are fighting for their homes and ancestral lands against the ravages of extractive industries and climate change. **And our partners in Burma, Bangladesh** are working tirelessly to support the rights of the Rohingya ethnic minority of Burma after facing government backed genocide in their homeland.

Guest at Your Table is here and needs your support. Contributions in any amount will qualify you for membership in UUSC. Please go to: donate.uusc.org or mail a check with a memo GAYT to FPC Church Office at 842 Tremont St. Duxbury, MA 02332 by December 5th.




First Parish celebrates five years of our Share the Plate program!

One Sunday each month we donate our entire non-pledge offering to a charity or justice organization whose mission aligns with our UU Principles.

Nominate your favorite non-profit!

If you know of an organization that could use our donation, you may nominate before **October 27** by contacting our Church Administrator Lenore O'Malley (uuduxbury@verizon.net, or 781-934-6532) for a nomination form; or you can email Lester at ll@lloydarch.com for him to send you a fillable pdf form; or you can print the online form at uudux.org. If you visit uudux.org, look for the menu item "Get Involved" at the top, under which click on menu item "Make a Difference." On that page to the right is "Share the Plate!" information with the form link at the bottom. You may then return the completed form to the church office or email to uuduxbury@verizon.net.

BLACK VOICES MATTER



All of my history as an African-American woman, as a Jewish woman, as a Muslim woman. I'm bringing everything I ever knew, and all the stories I've read - everything good, strong, kind and powerful. I bring it all with me into every situation, and I will not allow my life to be minimized by anybody's racism or sexism or ageism.

Maya Angelou

Continued Calendar from pg 1:**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12****BAY PLAYERS PERFORMANCE****8:00pm****SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13****BAY PLAYERS PERFORMANCE****3:00pm and 8:00pm****SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14****Worship 10:00am****TUESDAY NOVEMBER 16**

Bell Choir 3:30pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18**Dec. Bellringer Due Date!**

Book Club 9:00am -- Zoom

Gov. Board Meeting 7:00pm**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19**

Yoga 11:00am

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21**Worship 10:00am****Knit4Peace 11:30am****MONDAY NOVEMBER 22**

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

PFLAG 7:00pm

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 23

Bell Choir 3:30pm

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24**Office Closes early****THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25****THANKSGIVING DAY****OFFICE CLOSED****Bumpus Park Service 7:30am****FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26****OFFICE CLOSED****SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28****Worship 10:00am****MONDAY NOVEMBER 29**

R.E. Meeting 7:00-9:00pm

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30

Bell Choir 3:30pm

**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 **NOVEMBER**, the contact is, **GINA ANGELL**, gina444angell@gmail.com, 781-585-3444.

**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.



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)

**Sad News**

Longtime FPC'er **Bill Chute** has passed away one month after his 100th Birthday. If you would like to send a card or note to Bill's daughter, Leslie below is her address.

Leslie Rose
3 Branch Avenue
Plainville, MA 02762



December Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Thursday, November 18, 9:00 a.m.

Please Note: The deadline is a little earlier because of the Thanksgiving Holiday!



PLEDGING

Tips for Paying your Pledge

There are many ways to pay your pledge and, in true Unitarian fashion, we each do it a little differently! Here some popular methods people use – have a look, in these hybrid times a different method may now be more appealing.

- **Personal check**

Place in the plate after a service (an usher usually has a plate at the exit).

Mail to the church at P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury MA 02331.

Drop off a check at the church office

- **Automatic deductions**

Set up once and forget about it

Use a checking or savings bank account or credit card. We can set this up for you.

Request a form from Lenore or Amy Hamilton, fill it out and mail back.

Use your bank's **bill pay** function to have a check sent automatically. Contact your bank or find this feature on your bank's website.

- **Pay online**

use our secure website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YGP9/home>

use a bank account or a credit card

- **Required Minimum Distribution**

If you are 72 and ½ and subject to RMD withdrawals, you may benefit by using a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Funds from an IRA can be paid directly to a qualified charity, such as FPC, and not be treated as taxable income. More details available!

Donor Advised Fund

When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a donor-advised fund you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Then those funds can be invested for tax-free growth and you can recommend grants to virtually any IRS-qualified public charity such as FPC.

- **Stock Donation**

Request detailed instructions for this method

Questions? Contact Amy Hamilton at thehamiltonfamily@verizon.net or 781-834-4779.





A Glimpse of Plymouth Colony Life Through the Registry of Deeds A Virtual Tour

Did you know that the early history of America is found in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds?

“The early history of America is found in these records,” said Plymouth County Register of Deeds John R. Buckley Jr. as reported by John Laider, *The Boston Globe*, September 26, 2021.

An hourlong video produced by the Registry and Plymouth 400, takes original documents stored at the Registry, in a temperature and humidity-controlled vault, and “allows experts to weave the tale of the Pilgrims’ start as a colony, leading to a documentary that illustrates... Plymouth’s past.”

The people interviewed in the video help put the documents in historical and modern contexts. Wampanoag scholar Linda Coombs provides a Native American perspective to the Colonial story in discussing early trade between the European settlers and the Wampanoag people. “What a lot of people don’t stop to think about is that the Pilgrims sailed into the territory of the Wampanoag nation - it wasn’t just random empty land. Trading helped the Pilgrims to survive, it, however, was extremely detrimental to the Wampanoag people.” The Will of Myles Standish, whose children were baptized in the First Parish Church, was the first to be recorded and included his house, oxen, mares, sheep, pigs, musket, bed, still, and Bible.

The Records give a glimpse into colonial life; land divisions, deeds, zoning, births, deaths, marriages, crimes, contracts between master and servant, trials for murder, wills, public works, military matters, public health, and treasury accounts (fines for not attending church or sailing on the Lord’s day.)

To view the video go to: plymouthdeeds.org then click on:
Registry of Deeds and Plymouth 400 Production of the Colonial Records Virtual Tour.

Submitted by
The Historical Committee



The Environmental Group is sponsoring a plastic-free month challenge. There will be a motivational chart available after church as well as a table of plastic free alternatives to peruse. We will have weekly zoom meetings on Sunday evenings to keep us motivated and learn from each other. All participants should sign up to get zoom links AND to be eligible for sweepstakes drawings of baskets of goodies at the end on Sunday November 21st.

The Duxbury Interfaith Council (DIC) is collecting gift cards, in lieu of gifts, for over 135 Duxbury families. This drive replaces the gift tags that were put on trees in some houses of worship in past years.

Drop boxes will be in many churches and businesses throughout town.

Cards are needed by December 8th.

Donations can also be made via Paypal at: <http://www.duxburyinterfaithcouncil.org/donate-here.html>