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The Bell-Ringer

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This Month's Whole-Church Theme is "Cultivating Relationship".

October 3th -- <u>"To Honor Native Peoples"</u> -- Tim Turner, from Plimoth-Patuxet Museum will describe the Wampanoag way of life, careful use of land and water, earth-based spirituality, and show many artifacts.

October 10th – Our *Worship/Music Committee* is planning a delightful service. More later!

October 17th -- "Cultivating THAT Relationship" -- What is the relationship that wants and most needs your attention right now, the relationship that wants you to feed it so it can feed you?

October 24th -- <u>"There is no Planet B"</u> -- As we celebrate International Day of Climate Action, we'll look deeply at our relationship with our one and only Earth---and launch our "Live a Life a Little Less Plastic" campaign (details inside)!!

October 31st -- <u>"Loving What We've Lost"</u> -- How are you being called to more intentionally cultivate a relationship with a loved one who has died?

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 1

Yoga 11:00am

SUNDAY OCTOBER 3

Worship 10:00am
"To Honor Native Peoples" – in

THURSDAY OCTOBER 7

Book Club 9:00am -- Zoom Worship/Music Meeting 7:00pm

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10

Worship 10:00am MONDAY OCTOBER 11

Columbus Day Office Closed

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

TUESDAY OCTOBER 12

Knit4Peace 10:00-11:00am

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13

Trustees 7:00pm

THURSDAY OCTOBER 14

Book Club 9:00am -- Zoom Governing Board 7:00pm

FRIDAY OCTOBER 15

Yoga 11:00am



The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.

It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength renewed.—Rev Mark Morrison Reed

My Spiritual Friends,

I love the word "Ubuntu." Ubuntu is a Bantu word from Southern Africa. Its simple translation is "humanity," but the word really contains a richer sense of the quality of what it means to be a human, a quality conveyed in a common phrase "Ubuntu nguntu ngabanye abantu," ("A person is a person through other people.") To put it another way, "I am, because you are."

(Continuted on page 2)

First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A) Telephone: 781-934-6532 Email: uuduxbury@verizon.net 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 . . .

If it's one thing we are learning from this global pandemic it is the truth of Ubuntu---Who we are, our identity, our very survival is intimately connected with other people and vice versa. *To be a human is to be in community with other people*.

With the Covid virus still active (and deviating!), this fall we are living a "hybrid" life in our Beloved Community at FPC. But we are making the best of it---cultivating our relationships in new and creative ways...

As we make our way through this church year, in the spirit of "Ubuntu" let us be guided by this prayer from beloved FPC'er of blessed memory, Rev Elizabeth Tarbox:

Spirit of Life, I give thanks for the opportunities to love that present themselves in the turmoil of life.

Where the light catches the tears in another's eyes, where hands are held and there are moments without words, let us be present... Let us seek to be present to another's pain, to bathe another's wounds...

Let us not defend ourselves against the discomfort of unruly emotion, nor seek to close down our hearts for fear a new love will come to shake our foundations. Let us instead be open...For... in taking care of another, we are cared for.



Catherine



From the Governing Board: The President's Report

As I write this we have just wrapped up a successful Finance annual meeting at which we heard from the Treasurer and the Chair of the Trustees, learned about plans for a renovation to our front steps, and approved our 2021-2022 budget. It is always great to see our church democracy at work. Many thanks are due to our financial folks, including our Treasurer team, Finance Committee, and Trustees, for their work in putting together our budget. Also thanks to Jeanne Penvenne, our moderator, for skillfully navigating the difficulties of an all-Zoom meeting.

As I look back to the Governing Board's work in September, part of that was to assure a smooth annual financial meeting despite the issues associated with a deficit budget. The Finance committee suggested that covering the budget deficit (essentially replenishing our deficit reserve/rainy day fund) with cell fund capital savings was our best option in these pandemic times. I heartily agreed. This proposal was adopted after a short discussion and the 2021-2022 budget passed unanimously moments later.

At our September Governing Board meeting we continued to draft our goals for the 2021-2022 church year. I expect to report on these in the next Bell Ringer. In the meantime, our Governing Board liaisons are working diligently to update the committee chair organizational chart with the appropriate contact information. Committee chairs will see that information later in October when we have our first committee chair meeting. You'll hear more about that elsewhere in this Bell Ringer.

Progress has also been made on forming a three-person committee to manage key functions while Catherine is away on her sabbatical between Christmas and Easter. Michael Gardner will handle Pastoral Care, Jeanne McKinney will handle Administrative, and Carol Robison will handle Worship/Music. Thank you to all who have taken on this important commitment. The Governing Board also gave me the approval to enter into an agreement with a minister who Catherine and others believe will be an excellent choice to lead worship during Catherine's sabbatical. More news to follow.

We are also continuing our monthly 'Talk with the Governing Board' sessions. The next one will take place after church on Sunday October 17th. If you would like to join the chat, just stay in the main Zoom meeting rather than choosing to go into a breakout room.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to call me at 781-724-6456 or e-mail me at jim@greenharbor.com.

All the best,

Jim Hamilton

Governing Board President



We are looking for your input on the Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century process!

The next step in our Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century process is to get church members and friends thinking about five qualitative questions about the meeting house. To that end, we have created a Google Docs questionnaire. I encourage everyone to go to this link and fill out the questionnaire: https://forms.gle/7964gcx84NzGDq4M9

You will also find this link on our web site and in our Thursday e-distro. If you have any difficulty finding it, just send me an e-mail at <u>jim@greenharbor.com</u> and I'll get it to you right away.

For a short YouTube video explaining this, see: https://youtu.be/gq3zAtogX0Q

The five questions we are asking are:

- What does our current sanctuary "say" to you when you are in it?
- What values do you think our current sanctuary "holds" and conveys?
- What feelings do you hope visitors and newcomers will have when they are in the sanctuary space?
- What have been your favorite moments in our sanctuary space?
- What has impressed you about other UU sanctuaries you visited or worshiped in?

Other Envisioning activities happening this fall will be testimonials at October worship services and a November 6/7 visit from Scott Tayler, the consultant who is working with us on this process. I'll have more information in the November Bell Ringer about Scott's visit.

All the best,

Jim Hamilton

Chair, Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century Task Force
The other members of the Task Force 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?

Ahhhh, it's finally fall! I confess that I am happy to say goodbye to the heat and

humidity and welcome back "sweatshirt" weather as my mom called it! I love how the days are still warm and sunny while the nights are cool enough to get a firepit going.

This Fall all our kids will begin each Sunday in the Sanctuary with their families for the first 10 minutes of our service before they are escorted out to participate in our WODDLAND

WONDERLAND RE program. We've already begun to explore our church grounds with kaleidoscopes and nature scavenger hunts.





We kicked off Youth group last month at the beach! We are so happy to report that our Youth Advisor, McKayla Hoffman, for their **continuing commitment** to creating beloved community with our youth, who need now more than ever! This year has been so difficult for our teens struggling to maintain their connection to friends and regulaschool/sports/musicroutines. This year our

Youth Group theme: "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! There also are some thoughts burgeoning around Halloween...we'll keep you updated about what the youth start planning!

This month our Soul Matters theme is **Cultivating Relationship.** Wondering how you'll be reaching out to cultivate new relationships in our community this Fall.

Love & Blessings, Kate







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 Donna Savicki (781-585-8041 or dsavicki@comcast.net) or just drop in on one of our meetings. The Social Justice Committee meets at 9:00 in the Harvey Assembly Hall the second Sunday of the month.

Service in Honor of Local Indigenous Peoples

Sunday Oct. 3rd 10 AM

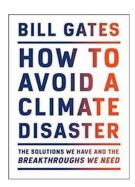
Please join us for a special Sunday Service, with Tim Turner, Director of Indigenous Education of Plimoth-Patuxet Museum. His inspirational talk describes the Native Peoples' way of life, their careful use of land and waters for providing for their families, and their earth-based spirituality.

Join us in our Assembly Hall (Masks Required) or on Zoom at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81682270550

Meeting ID: 816 8227 0550







Book Discussion October 6

If David Wallace-Wells's best-selling 2019 book *The Uninhabitable Earth* did not get your attention, the unprecedented fires, floods, and heatwaves of 2021 probably have. Climate change, global warming, is here and, even with immediate mitigation, it will get worse. Bill McKibben asserts the basic fact: it is physics, plain and simple. How did we get here? Can we get out of this mess?

We cannot read our way out of trouble, but we can learn the basic principles scientists and practitioners agree on and the strategies they recommend at a global, regional, local and household level to forge paradigm shifts for mitigation.

Bill Gates's book *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* covers the basics of every climate conversation and suggests strategies at every level. We can take his narrative in any direction that suits us. You are welcome to join the conversation whether or not you have read the book. You also may have suggestions to forge the kind of sea change in attitudes and policies we need to be sure future generations have a habitable earth.

Please join us on Zoom on October 6 at 7:00pm!

Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87857403820?pwd=SkRhdWx4ZXpkQjlQQklGMmR6ak9DQT09



In October we celebrate our Latinx heritage - people of Spanish and Portuguese heritage from Europe, the Caribbean, Central and South America. The term Latinx has been embraced because it is gender neutral and includes Spanish, Portuguese and Creole speaking people. We are deeply enriched by their presence!

Greening Our World - Some Tips - Would Love to Hear Yours

It is becoming painfully clear to more and more of us that climate change is upon us and that drastic action is required. The most important thing any of us can do is vote for candidates who recognize this imperative and pledge to take action. The second most important thing we can do is to modify our own behavior.

Plastics have been called the fossil fuel industry's Plan B. Knowing full well that we would seek green sources of energy for transportation, generating electricity and heating and cooling our homes, the fossil fuel industry is counting on plastic, touting it as an economical alternative (https://grist.org/climate/fossil-fuel-companies-are-counting-on-plastics-to-save-them/)



It's not about saving money anymore. It's about avoiding a climate disaster. For the past several months, I've been trying to avoid buying things packaged in plastic. I've been able to find plastic-packaging-free dish detergent, dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner and toothpaste and I have switched to Borax (packaged in cardboard) for many of my cleaning

needs. I no longer purchase liquid hand soap gone back to using bars of soap.

The Environmental Working Group is anti-plastics campaign including a plastic-free beginning in late October. We'd love to hear UNPASTE

COOTH TABS

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planning an challenge from you.

and have

Please send your suggestions to any of us: Cindy Ladd Fiorini (<u>claddfiorini@gmail.com</u>), Sharon Nabreski (<u>snabreski@comcast.net</u>), Jeanne Penvenne (<u>jeanne.penvenne@tufts.edu</u>) and Donna Savicki (<u>dsavicki@comcast.net</u>).

Thank you! Donna Savicki



"I learned that racism, like most systems of oppression, isn't about bad people doing terrible things to people who are different from them but instead is a way of maintaining power for certain groups at the expense of others."

— Alicia Garza, The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart





Our Share the Plate recipient for this next month will be **First Nations Development Institute**, nominated by Carrie Meier and Donna Savicki

Share the Plate on October 3

First Nations Development Institute improves economic conditions for Native Americans through direct financial grants, technical assistance & training, and advocacy & policy.

Please help this organization in this work. For more information you can visit them at firstnations.org.

For the next two weeks after the service you may go to uudux.org and click on the "Make a Donation to FPC Here!" button 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!

Volunteer for the Box Project This Year!

Through the Box Project First Parish volunteers provide food, clothing, diapers and household supplies for eight of the needlest local Head Start families during the school year. Each volunteer works with a team to support one family.

To volunteer, please contact Carrie Meier <u>carriemeier1@comcast.net</u>

We need your help!
Thank you for your support.







Continued Calendar from pg.1

SUNDAY OCTOBER 17

Worship 10:00am

THURSDAY OCTOBER 21

Book Club 9:00am -- Zoom

SUNDAY OCTOBER 24

Worship 10:00am

November Bellringer Due Date

MONDAY OCTOBER 25

PFLAG 7:00pm – Zoom SSHAGLY 7:00pm

R.E. Meeting 7:00 – 9:00pm

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27

Committee Chair Mtg. 7:00pm on

Zoom

THURSDAY OCTOBER 28

Book Club 9:00am -- Zoom

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31 Worship 10:00am

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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 **OCTOBER & NOVEMBER**, please call Gina Angell, 781-585-3444, gina444angell@gmail.com.



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. (2rd Sun. each month)
Buddhist Meditation 5-6:30p.m.

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)

(weekly)

TUESDAYS - Hand Bells 4:00 p.m. Communications 7:00pm (2nd Tuesday of every month)

<u>WEDNESDAYS</u> – 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)

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



SAVE THE DATE!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS MEETING

The fall Committee Chairs meeting will be held on <u>Wednesday</u> <u>October 27 at 7PM</u> via zoom. We hope to have all committees represented, so if you are a Chair and can't attend, please make sure someone else from your committee can come.

Please RSVP to Cindy Ladd Fiorini, Vice Chair of Governing Board at <u>claddfiorini@gmail.com</u> or text/call 617-921-6224.



Capital Projects Committee seeks input on front stairs and ramp





The Capital Projects Committee has developed a plan to fix the front steps of the meetinghouse so they are safe and up to modern standards of accessibility. We have included a wheelchair ramp to be located mostly on the cemetery side of the meetinghouse.

The core of the steps and ramp would be reinforced poured concrete, with granite facing on stair surfaces visible from the street, so the appearance would be similar to the present steps. Our aim is to obtain bids on the project during this church year and to have the work done next summer.

We are waiting for a preliminary cost estimate, but we expect it to be about \$200,000 for the steps themselves and perhaps another \$150,000 for the ramp. The most urgent decision we face right now is whether to include a ramp or not. We believe the church can afford to pay for the steps

themselves without dangerously depleting our reserves. We do not know where funds for a ramp would come from.

The decision on how much money to spend from meetinghouse funds is up to the Trustees of Parish Funds, and the final decision on whether to go forward with a capital project, and what form it should take, is up to the Governing Board. But we all are seeking input from church members.

We don't have to build a new ramp. The one at the rear of the church provides adequate access. However, a ramp at the front would make access easier for those who prefer to enter the church at the front, and it would show we are accessible and welcoming. A ramp would change the appearance of the front of the church, but we have discussed this with the town Historic District Commission, and they have given us a preliminary indication that they would not oppose a ramp.

We would like to hear from the congregation in the next week with opinions about the desirability of building a new ramp as well as about the project in general. We hope to refine our plans and present them at a church-wide information meeting after New Year. Please send comments by email to Jon Lehman (jonlehman@comcast.net) or Lester Lloyd (lesterelloyd@outlook.com). Or leave written comments addressed to us in the church office.



Knitting 4 Peace

Knitting4Peace is a community of knitters, crocheters and quilters who gather in Peace Pod groups to make useful items with love, which groups request to support marginalized or vulnerable people. They deliver hope, healing and peace to our neighbors, those close by and those around the world. Here on the South Shore we have started a South Shore Peace Pod and have about 30 crafters making items for Penelope's Place in Brockton, a battered women's shelter, and the VA Hospital in Brockton. We are bringing the Peace Pod to First Parish Church and hope both church members and the surrounding community will join with us. We will meet in person on the third Sunday and first Tuesday of the month. (Starting Sunday October 17 and Tuesday November 2).

For more information about Knitting4Peace, you can check them out online at knitting4peace.org
Our hope in Duxbury is to not only make smaller items for the above organizations but to also make blankets for Afghani refugees.

Here's the idea, and it's based on a similar knitting project from Cape Cod yarn shop, A Great Yarn:

Using <u>washable worsted weight yarn</u>, we will be making panels about one foot wide and six feet long. Place 50 stitches on a size 8 needle and simply knit until the panel is six feet long. If you want to use a "fancier" knit that is fine as long as it's close to one foot wide. It's that easy. We will put the panels together to make a gift of warmth and welcome for Afghani refugees. Donations of money also encouraged for shipping and yarn for those that need it. Any questions please contact Cindy Ladd Fiorini at 617-921-6224 or <u>claddfiorini@gmail.com</u> or Terri Nickerson at 781-264-4135 or terri_nickerson@hotmail.com



PLASTIC FREE CHALLENGE COMING!!!

The Environmental Subgroup of the Social Justice Committee is developing a 31 day challenge to encourage us all to learn more about the negative effects of plastics in our environment and to encourage us all to use less of it.

Catherine will be joined by some of us in a church service on October 24 to commemorate International Day of Climate Action 2021. This will be followed by a table after church showing some alternatives to using plastic products and a kick off to a 31 day challenge to make some changes in your own life. Lots more information will be forthcoming! If you have alternative products that you already use that replace plastic, we would love to showcase them on our after church table. Just contact Cindy Ladd Fiorini claddfiorini@gmail.com or Donna Savicki at dsavicki@comcast.net



Hospitality Committee News

Presently only two of the three members of the Hospitality Committee are attending church in person this fall. Coffee hour has become our responsibility and we need your help.

Due to Covid restrictions we have changed our procedure. We are asking parishioners to donate store bought cookies and crackers as we have a very limited budget. Please remember that your purchases should not have nuts due to allergies. You can drop donations off at the church anytime or bring it to church on Sunday.

Also, we would appreciate your volunteering to help with coffee hour, all you have to do is to set up and clean up on a Sunday. We will have a calendar available for sign up during coffee hour.

The committee needs members, please consider joining our team.

Sharon Nabreski Heidi Conner Julie Lillys



SOUTH SHORE FOLK MUSIC CLUB at FIRST PARISH DUXBURY NEW SEASON UNDERWAY!

Our season is starting with Live Zoom Open Mics. We held the first one on Thursday, September 23, and it was a great success! We heard traditional ballads, John Prine songs, show tunes, funny songs from who knows where! All types of music and poetry are welcome! We love audience! Suggested donation: \$5.00. More info on our website.

The Zoom link for our Zoom Open Mics will be listed on our website the week before the Open Mic. http://www.ssfmc.org

Go to the bottom of the Home Page, look for the big yellow button that says, "Click link for (date) Zoom Open Mic". Click on the link next to the words.

Zoom Open Mic dates/times: (Thursdays) 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4 from 7-9 PM

Great music! Folk Camaraderie! Come on down to the Club via Zoom!

A note from our President regarding the rest of our season:

South Shore Folk Music Club at First Parish Duxbury has postponed our scheduled live performance concerts to the Spring of 2022. We have based this decision on CDC.gov and Mass.gov Coronavirus recommendations to postpone or cancel non-essential large events or gatherings to help prevent transmission of the Coronavirus. We look forward to resuming our live concerts in late March 2022, with plans to host concerts as follows: Porch Party Mamas; Danielle Miraglia, Lisa Bastoni, and Monica Rizzio; and Honeysuckle.

Our newsletter, the Hurdy Gurdy has been posted on our site: Go to our website http://www.ssfmc.org Then "Live Music", then "Hurdy Gurdy Newsletter"

Hope to see you at a Live Zoom Open Mic!

