

# The Bell-Ringer

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



SEPTEMBER 2021



**OUR ALL CHURCH THEME FOR SEPTEMBER IS "EMBRACING POSSIBILITY".**  
**WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 10:00AM**

**September 12<sup>th</sup> -- "We're Back!"** -- Our Ingathering will mean a return to our beloved sanctuary (Zoom will also be available). Let's wear our masks and re-enter our beautiful sacred space for the first time in eighteen months (**Bring water from some place special/sacred to you for our Water Communion**)

**September 19<sup>th</sup> -- "The Possibilities That Forgiveness Brings"** -- As our Jewish neighbors celebrate their High Holy Days, let's consider the power of forgiveness and new beginnings that this special time in the Jewish calendar offers (Canter DJ Fortune will gift us with his music once again!!)--**AFTER CHURCH BUDGET DISCUSSION**

**September 26<sup>th</sup> --"Two Voices, One Song"** -- Catherine will be joined by Michael Gardner as they both share reflections on a unique topic. ***This abbreviated service will be Zoom only and will be followed by our Annual Finance Meeting***

## COMING EVENTS

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2

Worship/Music 7:00pm on Zoom

### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 6

**LABOR DAY**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12

**INGATHERING**

**IN-PERSON AND ZOOM** 10:00am

### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13

SSHAGLY 7:00-9:00pm

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16

Book Club 9:00a.m.

Governing Board Mtg. 7:00pm

### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19

Worship 10:00am

**Finance Information Meeting**

### THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23

Book Club 9:00am

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24

**October Bellringer Due Date**

*(Continued on page 7)*



## *A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...*

Dear Friends

Another church year is about to begin---but NOT in the way we had expected. Last June I think many of us assumed come September, with all the folks here in Massachusetts who've been vaccinated, our shared church life might begin to resemble something "normal" this fall. AND THEN CAME THE DELTA VARIANT!

Your Safe Congregations Task Force took the month of July off (our first break from bi-weekly meetings since March 2020). Last week we ramped up again---this new, highly contagious variant means we will have to resume meeting every other week, as we watch the progress of Covid-19 and continue to make recommendations for how we can safely gather in our Beloved Community.

### **SO THIS IS WHAT I DON'T KNOW, AS WE BEGIN THIS CHURCH YEAR (MY EIGHTEEN AMONG YOU!):**

---I don't know what our Sunday morning worship life will look like this year. I DO KNOW WE'LL BE STARTING OFF AS "MULTI-PLATFORM (FORMERLY KNOWN AS HYBRID) WORSHIP---We'll have "live" worship in our beloved sanctuary (with masks), which will be simultaneously "Zoomed!!" Whether we keep this format through the church year will depend on the course of the virus.

## 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

Dr. Kate Sullivan, Dir. of Community Life & Learning

Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator

Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Edwin Swanborn, Music Director

Jackie Smith-Miller, Dir. of Religious Education, Emerita

Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

### ***Minister's Message continued from page 1 . . .***

*---I don't know what our shared congregational life will look like this year—Our Governing Board has approved the purchase of a tent for Fellowship opportunities (like Coffee Hour) on the front lawn. Whether committee meetings and small groups will meet in person or on Zoom will, for the time being, depend upon the wishes of the group. Will we have a Holiday Fair or even a Summer Fair this year?---I really don't know (although I do think some form of each are indeed doable!)*

*---I have no idea what I'll be doing on my sabbatical this winter. I do know I need some R &R (and I've got 10 months of sabbatical 'in the bank>') But my original plan was to get a preaching gig in Australia (where our daughter, her husband and our grandson Noah just relocated ) is not looking too great, as Australia recently closed their borders to try to contain a Delta variant outbreak.*

***I'M REALIZING HOW THIS YEAR WILL OFFER PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR WHAT THE BUDDHISTS CALL "DON'T KNOW MIND!!" WHAT I DO KNOW IS THIS: FPC WILL CONTINUE TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS "UNKNOWNING"***

***The church-wide theme for this month is "Embrace Possibility"----and that is the invitation for each one of us as we begin another church year together. A WORLD WHERE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IS A WORLD WHERE EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE----and I don't know about you, but I can't wait to explore all the possibilities this new church year will bring!!!***

***See ya soon!!***

***Catherine***

# Governing Board

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

Here's hoping everyone had a great summer and is ready for Ingathering and a new church year! Your Governing Board met twice in August, once for a regular business meeting and once for our annual retreat. I will report about both here.

The Governing Board's August business meeting took place on Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup> (we typically meet on the third Thursday of each month, but we took a break in July). At the meeting we had a special visitor, Peter Smith, to discuss a fundraising idea that he shared with Mary Lynn Carson. This is still in the early planning stages, but it would relate to antiques and appraisals. More to follow. We heard reports from the Growth Team, Safe Congregations, the Racial Justice working group (which is also exploring environmental justice, as the two are tightly linked). We got an update from the Pandemic Fundraising team which reported that the planned September 26<sup>th</sup> fundraiser was being shelved for the moment out of concern for Covid. The Parsonage working group also reported, and is looking to do a walkthrough and assessment of the parsonage as soon as Catherine has moved out, which we anticipate to happen towards the end of September. We got an update from the Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century working group (more on this below and elsewhere in the Bell Ringer). We heard from the Treasurer about an early draft of the budget that forecasts a budget deficit of around \$9,000. The Governing Board is working with the Trustees, the Treasurer, and the Finance Committee on ways to close that gap. Work was done on McKayla Hoffman's employment contract as Youth Advisor, and I am happy to report that the document is complete and the contract signed. One last item was a Hamilton Educational loan award request. Since this was for my own daughter, and requires the signature of the chair of the Trustees, the Minister, and the Governing Board President, I felt it was right to bring it before the entire board. They approved a loan in the amount of \$2,500 for Olivia, who is doing her master's degree at the New School in New York City. I remind everyone that educational loans and grants are available from our church's trust accounts. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Trustees if you have any questions.

As for our retreat, it took place on Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> following the Fisherman's service. All eleven of us\* (full list of board members below) met in-person in the Assembly Hall to prepare for the 2021-2022 church year. We did a deep check-in to learn more about what was going on in each other's lives. With Catherine's help we developed a covenant to guide our work together. We spent time discussing our goals for the coming year. We intend to make these quantifiable so at the end of the year we will know if we have achieved them. (You'll hear more from me on our goals in the coming months.) We had a fine pot luck lunch provided by attendees. We spent some time in the sanctuary doing the five questions exercise for the Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century initiative that I write about elsewhere in this issue of the Bell Ringer. One other important thing we heard about is Catherine's plan to take a sabbatical right after the Christmas Eve service and returning on Easter Sunday.

You will learn more about this in an all-church e-mail, that in all likelihood you will see before you receive this Bell Ringer.

We snuck a little business into the retreat and took a break to vote on two items. The first vote was to give Cindy Ladd Fiorini (also a town select board member) and Catherine permission to explore with the town the possibility of using the parsonage as temporary housing for Afghani refugees. You will learn more about this from Cindy in the weekly e-distro. The second vote was to authorize the spending of up to \$2,500 from the Memorial Fund to pay for a large tent to be used on the front lawn for Sunday coffee hour and other purposes (like the Summer Fair).

That's about it. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jim@greenharbor.com](mailto:jim@greenharbor.com).

Looking forward to seeing you virtually or in person soon!

***Jim Hamilton***  
***Governing Board President***

\*Jim Hamilton (President), Cindy Ladd Fiorini (Vice President), Karl Schweitzer (Treasurer), Regina Mortland (Clerk), Catherine Cullen (Minister), Kate Sullivan (Director of Community Life and Learning), Mark Schlesinger (Service Liaison), Lester Lloyd (Physical Plant Liaison), Sally Delisa (Sunday Morning Liaison), Pat Slechts (Finance Liaison), Jay Bray (Outreach Liaison)



4.



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



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

#### ***Social Justice Committee Members:***

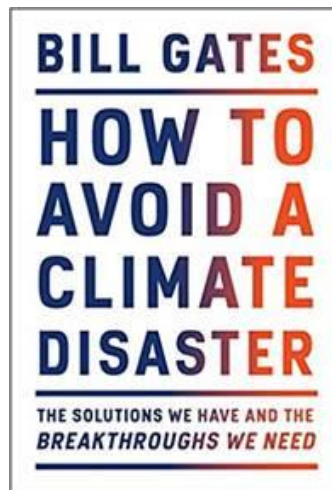
***Ann Callanan, Sally Delisa, Mary Flanagan, Cindy Ladd Fiorini, Sherry Gardner, Bob Hughes, Eleanor McGonagle, Carrie Meier, Sarah Moran, Carol Nappellio, Peter Nappellio, Jeanne Penvenne, Susan Rudman, Judy Savage, Donna Savicki, Mark Schlesinger, PJ Simeone, Emily Simeone, Cindy Simmons, Cindy Wilson, 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 Donna Savicki (781-585-8041 or [dsavicki@comcast.net](mailto: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.*

### **Enviromental Working Group Reading**

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) encourages FPC members and friends to read Bill Gates's book, *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need*. Two of our members previewed the book and feel it would form the basis of an interesting group discussion.

Whether or not you have read the book, if you'd be interested in participating in a group discussion, please contact Donna Savicki ([dsavicki@comcast.net](mailto:dsavicki@comcast.net) or 781-585-8041) and we will schedule a discussion group in the fall.





**Service in Honor of Local Indigenous Peoples**  
**Sunday Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> 10 AM**

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

To help us visualize their culture, he will show and pass around many artifacts, including stone and wooden tools, clothing, musical instruments, pottery, and toys. He is both gentle and understanding as he easily creates a conversation with all present.



**Feed The Homeless**

The Social Justice Committee helps feed the homeless in Plymouth by providing bag lunches every Tuesday.

Each week, two volunteers prepare 10 sandwiches, which they deliver to the shed at church. Another volunteer provides 20 individually wrapped desserts and delivers them to the shed by 9:30 on Tuesday morning.

At the shed, the volunteers put together 20 bag lunches, which, in addition to sandwiches, also include individual servings of fruit, juice boxes, and chips.

Bob Hughes takes the bag lunches to Plymouth each week and distributes them.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please contact Donna Savicki, [dsavicki@comcast.net](mailto:dsavicki@comcast.net) or 781-585-8041).

Thank you  
 Donna Savicki



**Continued Calendar:**  
(from page 1)

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26**

**FINANCE MEETING!**

Worship 10:00am

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27**

RE Meeting 7:00pm

SSHAGLY 7:00-9:00p.m.

PFLAG 7:00-9:00p.m.

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30**

Book Club 9:00a.m.



Caring Connection has had a busy summer taking care of our First Parish friends. For those of you that may be unfamiliar with CC, we provide help to people during stressful times such as making meals, giving rides, running an errand, etc.

We can always use more people on our “helper” list. This doesn’t mean you have to respond to all requests but the more helpers we have the more likely we can fill a need. Thanks to everyone that has helped us this summer!

**Caring Connection Contact for September**

**Michael Gardner**

**617-833-9606**

**sgmgardner4746@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](mailto: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](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net) if you need anything.

## **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)  
 Buddhist Meditation 5-6:30p.m. (weekly)

**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** - Hand Bells 4:00 p.m.  
 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)

**THURSDAYS** - Book Group 9 a.m.  
 Sewing Group 10 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)  
 Alliance Luncheons 12:30pm (3<sup>rd</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)



## **BELLRINGER DATES FOR 2021-2022 CHURCH YEAR**

### **Here is the BellRinger Deadline Schedule:**

September 24 – October Bellringer

October 24 – November Bellringer

November 18 (Tweaked w/the holidays) – Dec. Bellringer

January 3 (Tweaked with the holidays) – Jan. Bellringer

January 24 – February Bellringer

February 23 – March Bellringer

March 24 – April Bellringer

April 25 – May Bellringer

May 24 – June Bellringer







## **An Update on the Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century Task Force**

You may remember that in 2019, the Governing Board announced the creation of a task force with the following goal:

*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.*

Late in 2019 the task force was formed and went to work. Then came the pandemic, but not before we identified a consultant, Scott Tayler (well known for the Soul Matters curriculum), to help guide us through the process. Covid caused us to aside our work until January of 2021, but have been meeting regularly since then. This fall you will see the process ramp up. There will be a number of small meetings taking place with various committees and groups of members and friends. Those meetings will focus on a set of five questions, and ideally will take place in the sanctuary. Here are those questions:

- 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?

We are currently planning to meet with the following groups, but will add others as necessary: the Governing Board; the Historical Committee; the Building & Grounds committee; the Growth Team; the Membership Committee; the Worship & Music Committee; the Small Group Ministry steering group & facilitators; the Trustees, Finance Committee, Assistant Treasurers, & Stewardship; the Religious Education committee (who we will look to for guidance on how best to approach youth & younger families); the Alliance; and the Social Justice Committee. We want to be sure that all voices are heard and will set up additional sessions as needed to meet that goal.

Late August was our first opportunity to test out these questions. We went through this exercise at the Governing Board retreat and are beginning the process of gathering feedback. You’ll hear more from me through the fall as I will be writing monthly Bell Ringer updates on the Envisioning Our Meeting House in the 21st Century Task Force’s activities. Testimonials at worship services will take place in

October. Then in November on the weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, Scott Tayler will be here for a worship service and a workshop. We will likely follow Scott's visit with a survey, and as we move into 2022 we will start the process of developing a plan that can be voted on at our June 2022 annual program meeting.

This will certainly make for an exciting year of thinking deeply about what our sanctuary means to us. If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to contact me ([jim@greenharbor.com](mailto:jim@greenharbor.com), 781-724-6456).

Jim Hamilton

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

The other members are:

Elaine Bryant, Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, Caroline Mitchell, Dorothy Pilla, Troy Riley, Carol Robison, Emily Simeone, and Tracy Wagner



### ***Spiritual Direction Opportunities at First Parish Church***

The still, small voice is with you whether you are racing through your busy days or sitting in meditative silence or contemplative prayer. Spiritual direction is for anyone who is searching for deeper spiritual insights and for spiritual growth in the events of our hectic daily lives. You can use your time in spiritual direction to slow down, to learn how to listen, to explore life's deeper issues and to make progress toward achieving greater consistency between your deeply held values and your actions.

This fall Catherine is offering Individual Spiritual Direction (participants meet with Catherine once a month for an hour or so). Contact Catherine via email at [TheRevCatherine@aol.com](mailto:TheRevCatherine@aol.com) or call her here at the church (781)934-6532 ext 3, to learn more about this unique ancient spiritual practice. May this be the year you explore more deeply the spiritual meaning of your life!



## **SHARE THE PLATE NOMINATIONS**

### **What is Share the Plate?**

One Sunday each month we Share the Plate by donating our entire non-pledge offering to a member-nominated 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.

### **Nominate your favorite non-profit!**

If you know of an organization that could use our donation, you may nominate before October 17 by contacting our Church Administrator Lenore O'Malley ([uuduxbury@verizon.net](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net), or 781-934-6532) for a nomination form; or you can email Lester at [ll@lloydarch.com](mailto:ll@lloydarch.com) for him to send you a fillable pdf form; or you can print the online form at [uudux.org](http://uudux.org). If you visit [uudux.org](http://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](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net).



## **ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEETING**

**Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** will be our Annual Financial Meeting on Zoom after our abbreviated Sunday Service.

Informational Meeting will be held the Sunday prior on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

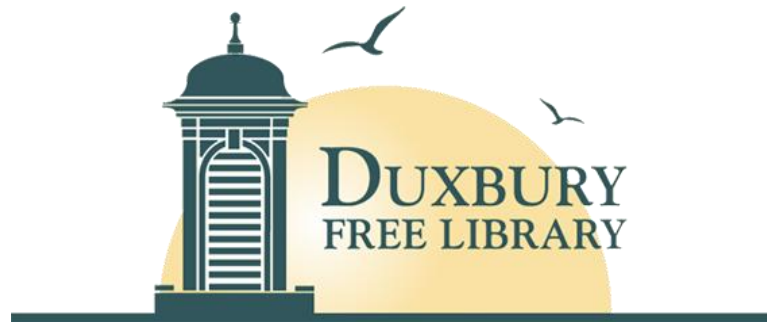


### **Caring Connection Information**

For anyone who is new to the church or unfamiliar with Caring Connection, our mission is to connect people in the church going through a stressful time and needing some support with church friends willing to help out. Some of the things we do are to coordinate meals, find rides to appointments, assist with errands and sometimes simply to give a call offering support and a listening ear.

If you or someone in the church is in need of assistance, let us know! Also, if you are not on our helper list and would like to be, please contact us so we can add you to it. For those of you already on the list we thank you!! We take good care of each other at First Parish! For any needs that arise in September, contact Michael Gardner, 617-833-9606, [sgmgardner4746@gmail.com](mailto:sgmgardner4746@gmail.com).





As part of its strategic planning process, the Duxbury Free Library is interested in hearing from all members of our community. Whether you are a regular Library user or have never been to the Duxbury Library, please take five minutes to complete this survey—it's only 11 questions. Your honest input is critically important to helping ensure that the Library is meeting the ever-changing needs of our community.

If you are interested in helping shape the future of the Library, please provide your name and contact info at the end of the survey. All other responses will be anonymous.

Here is the link to [the online survey](#).

Here is the link that can be scanned on your phone or pad:



**SCAN ME**

Thank you in advance for your insights,  
Lester Lloyd, Board of Library Trustees Chair  
[ll@lloydarch.com](mailto:ll@lloydarch.com)

