

The Bell-Ringer

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



MAY 2022



OUR ALL CHURCH THEME FOR MAY IS **"Nurturing Beauty"**. WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 1st -- **"Envisioning Our Sanctuary: Who Are We Called to Be"** -- This Sunday will be an abated service as we will go into our special meeting at 11:00am!

May 8th -- **"What IS It We Celebrate on Mother's Day?"** -- Let's look at all the things "mother" can be, as we celebrate Mother's Day with words and special music (a modified MUSIC SUNDAY!)

May 15th -- **"The Beauty of Thay's Teachings"** -- My longtime Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh passed away earlier this year. I'm delighted to share with you many of his teachings which have guided my life over the past two decades.

May 22nd -- **"What Will We Do With All This Beauty?"** -- Our survival instincts prompt us to pay attention to the ugliness in this world. But what would our lives be like if we made it a practice to intentionally notice all the beauty?

May 29th -- **"Music in Worship: Singing with Intention"** -- Singing has always been an important part of the worship experience. We will explore why that is and will discuss ways to make singing even more intentional by examining the spiritual practice of singing meditation. Kenneth Langer is a composer, conductor, writer, and music educator. He is a third-year UU seminarian at Starr King School for the Ministry.



COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY APRIL 30th

MAKING MAY BASKETS – 10:00-12:00pm – FRONT LAWN OF CHURCH

SUNDAY MAY 1st

Worship 10:00am

AFTER CHURCH VOTE!

ENVISIONING THE SANCTUARY

DUE DATE COMMITTEE CHAIR

REPORTS FOR ANNUAL MTG.

PACKAGE

MONDAY MAY 2

Jacquie McLellan Celebration of Life 11:00am

Photography Class 1:00pm

WEDNESDAY MAY 4

Bell Choir 4:00pm

THURSDAY MAY 5

Worship/Music 7:00pm

SATURDAY MAY 7

Child Dedication 11:00am

SSFG Concert 7:00pm

(Continued on page 9)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...



*That tree from its dense wooden trunk
surprises into leaf
as my tight-fibered heart leafs out
in unexpected speech.*

*I know that trunk, so thick, so slow,
its heartwood core so like my own.
Yet here I celebrate that we
can take leave of our density
to dance the wind and sing the sun.*

*Our words, like leaves, in season spring
and then in season fall,
but at their rise they prove a power
that gentle conquers all.*

*As shriveled leaves return to earth
to nourish roots of leaves unstrung,
so dry words fall back to the heart
to decompose into their parts
and feed the roots of worlds unsung.*

(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

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 . . .

*And when speech fails, the dark trunk stands
'til most surprising spring
wells up the voice that ever speaks
the world once green again. ---- Parker Palmer*

Dear Friends

This month, as if to counterbalance these dark times and the forces that block the sun, we can experience the miracle of a walk in the spring woods--we can know once again what Dylan Thomas called "the force that through the green fuse drives the flower.."

Let that force fill you up, dear beloved.....

Know the true joy of the world once green again!

Catherine





From the Governing Board: The President's Report

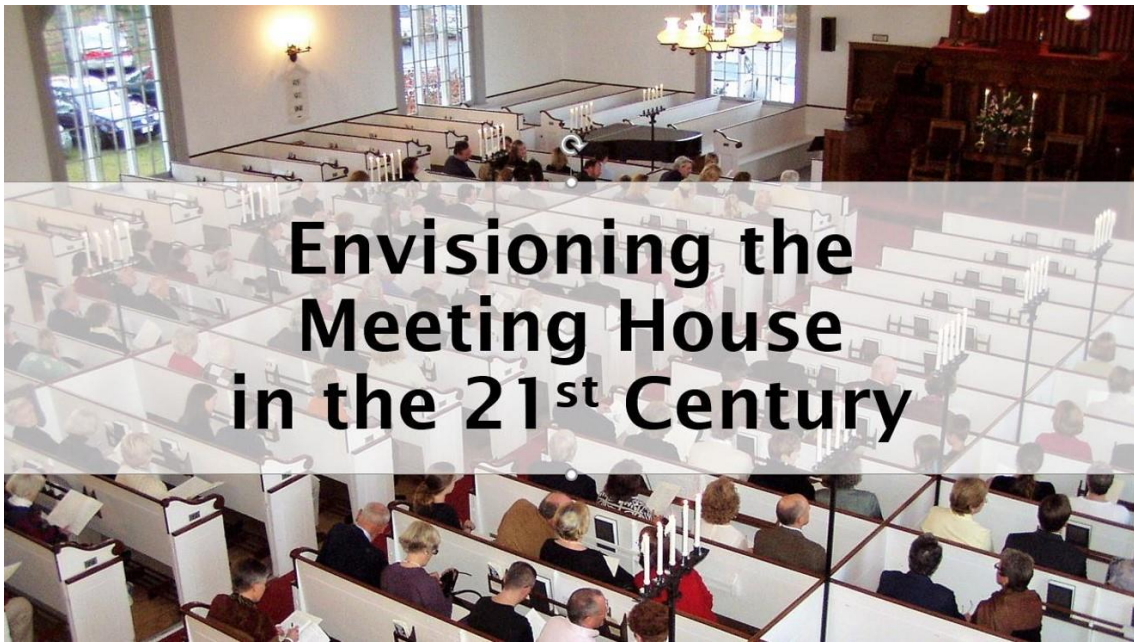
April was filled with a range of activities:

- **Service Auction was a big success:** Our Service Auction event, including the dinner and online component, raised more than \$10,000 for the work of the church. Congratulations to the team of volunteers and to all who donated items! Now the Pandemic Fundraising working group turns its focus toward the Summer Fair (Saturday June 18th). If you can help by volunteering in the week leading up to the fair or on the day of the fair, it would be greatly appreciated.
- **Get your pledges to the Stewardship committee:** Our annual Stewardship campaign kicked off in April and is up and running. If you have not submitted your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Our finance team and treasurer need to know the level of support we have to be able to create our budget for the 2022-2023 church year.
- **Committee reports are due:** Committee chairs need to get their annual reports to the church office as soon as possible in preparation for our annual program meeting on Sunday June 5th. Committee chairs should also be preparing their 2022-2023 budget requests.
- **Special meeting on Sunday May 1st** – Coming up soon is the special meeting to vote on what to do about our historic tablets and the crown molding above the pulpit. All members should plan on attending. (See elsewhere in the Bell Ringer for an update from me about this.)
- **Work on the front steps:** The much-anticipated work to improve the front steps is moving forward. Bidding for the construction project is proceeding now and we expect that the work will take place over the summer. This will limit our ability to have weddings, but memorial services can proceed with the expectation that mourners will enter from the back.
- **Support our youth:** There are some great youth activities coming up. See elsewhere in the Bell Ringer and in our weekly e-distros for more on the upcoming May Day celebration. Also, mark your calendars for Sunday June 12th, which is Religious Education Sunday.
- **Parsonage and DARI update:** The Afghan family living in our parsonage is doing very well. You may have noticed that a fence has gone up to enclose a play area for their kids. Other improvements to the parsonage include insulation, which is being done free of charge through a state program.
- **Land acknowledgement statement:** Our Social Justice committee is doing important work on a land acknowledgement statement that members and friends will be seeing more of in the upcoming months.
- **Get us your questions:** The next monthly 'Talk with the Governing Board' session will take place on Sunday May 22nd. I will be joined with Governing Board Physical Plant Liaison Lester Lloyd to take questions after church both in-person and by Zoom.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Jim Hamilton, Governing Board President
781-724-6456, jim@greenharbor.com



Come to the Special All-Church Meeting on Sunday May 1st!

Our vote on the historic tablets and crown molding is coming up soon. Thank you to every everyone who participated in the Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century discussions that took place after church on Sunday April 24th. The working group is now in the process of finalizing the motions that will be presented at the meeting. Draft versions of these motions were e-mailed to members and friends, and are also posted on the church web site.

The warrant for the special meeting identifies three areas:

1. A motion to remove and reposition our historic tablets within the sanctuary
2. A motion to cover the wording on the crown molding above the pulpit
3. A motion to affirm the continued work of the Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century working group

The Envisioning working group looks forward to seeing many of you at the special meeting to vote on this matter. A shortened worship service will begin at 10 am. The special meeting will begin at 11 am in the sanctuary. Members will be able to vote in person or via Zoom.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to anyone on the Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century working group whose members include Elaine Bryant, Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, Jim Hamilton, Caroline Mitchell, Dorothy Pilla, Carol Robison, Emily Simeone, and Tracy Wagner.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

MAY 2022

Our theme this month is “*Nurturing Beauty*,” and we will spend time this month exploring how to appreciate beauty in all things. As our UU faith reminds us, when it comes to seeing the beauty in others or in our natural world, we need to appreciate it in all its many forms. Celebrating the beauty of others and ourselves helps our children foster understanding, awareness, and empathy of those around them in their ever-widening world.



We continue to meet weekly with the Youth and our wonderful Youth Advisor, McKayla Hoffman. We have returned to “dinner church” as we prepare and share meals together. We are also preparing for our Bridging Ceremony in May, when we will celebrate Julia Conner as she graduates and moves on to her next big adventure, college!

We have welcomed several new families over the past month, so be on the lookout to welcome new faces! Our Religious Ed. Program is growing and we are excited to continue to build community and connection among our kids and the rest of our beloved multigenerational community!



Everything has beauty but not everyone sees it. ~

Confucius

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) 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!



Share the Plate on May 8 (Mother's Day!) South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center Nominated by Barbara Balboni

South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center is a nonprofit, community-based domestic violence program that has been assisting survivors of domestic violence and their families for more than 40 years. SSRAC is committed to providing comprehensive services for intimate partner and familial violence, as well as victim services and prevention for survivors and loved ones of impaired driving crashes, and loved ones who have lost someone to homicide. Services are free and confidential to all.

Please help this organization to assist survivors of violence. For more information you can visit them at www.ssrac.org. For the two weeks after the service you may go to uudux.org and click on the "Make a Donation to FPC Here!" button, or just click here [Home | First Parish Church Duxbury Giving \(myvanco.com\)](#) 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 \(uudux.org\)](#) 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.

Land Acknowledgements

Below is a short Land Acknowledgement for the Order of Service and a fuller Land Acknowledgement for our web-site as well as a map that shows the lands of the Patuxet Wampanoag, drawn by Samuel de Champlain in 1605.

Short Land Acknowledgement

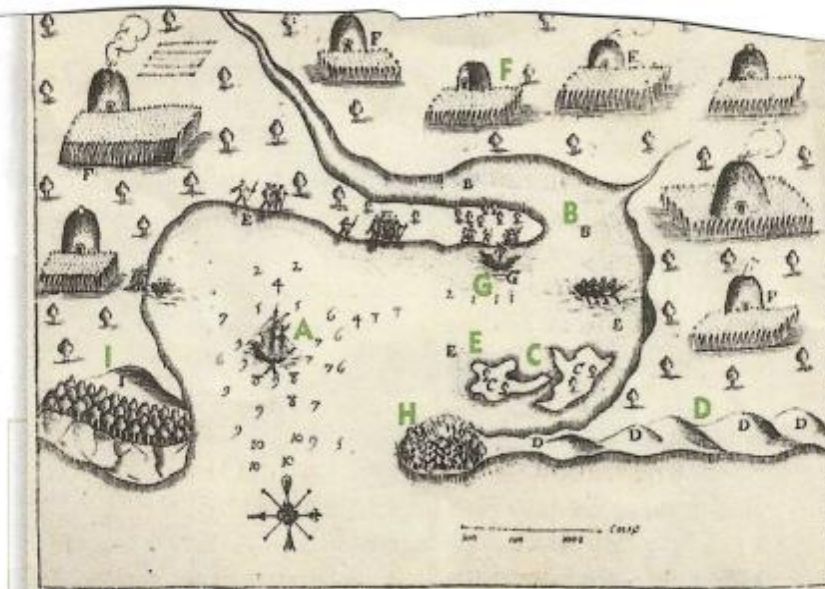
We, members of First Parish Church of Duxbury, acknowledge that we occupy the ancestral and unceded lands of the Wampanoag. We confirm that we have largely neglected and misunderstood their experiences. We commit to support their efforts to regain and maintain their self-determination.

Fuller Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the land once inhabited by the Wampanoag People.

First Parish Church is committed to honoring the sovereignty of indigenous peoples who lost their lands and their means of livelihood due to disease, war, broken treaties, massacres, forced removals, enslavement and forced assimilation. We recognize their painful history caused by European settlement.

We believe that Indigenous Peoples should be given reparations by the United States government and should be protected by law from further loss of land and the termination of agreements that they hold to be beneficial.



Developed by Carrie Meier, Jeanne Penvenne and Carol Robison

History of Native Peoples in *Marshfield* Area

The Missacautucket Wampanoag People lived on the lands now named Marshfield. They developed roads along the same routes used today. Artifacts have been found throughout this area, showing that Native Peoples lived there as early as 10,000 years ago.

The earliest English settlers in the Marshfield area formed an alliance with the Missacautucket Wampanoag partly because of the strong friendship between Edward Winslow and Massasoit, their Sachem.

After Massasoit's death, his oldest son died suddenly after visiting Governor Josiah Winslow's home. Partly as a result, in 1675-1676 there was a brutal war between the English and the Wampanoag, led by King Phillip, Massasoit's youngest son. Most of the Wampanoag were either killed or sold into slavery in the Caribbean.

A Song of the Eastern Woodland

Wow, wow, hearken ye!
We are diminished
Woe, Woe!
The clear places are deserted
They are in their graves who established it.
We are become wretched. Woe!

History of Native Peoples in the *Pembroke* Area

Native Peoples lived in the area that we call Pembroke for at least 10 thousand years. From these thousands of years, many artifacts of Native Peoples have been found there. This was rich fishing area, with much more lands covered with waters than today.

The area around the Herring Run River and Herring Pond was called Namakeesett or Place of Much Fish. The south and west of what is now Pembroke was called Mattakeeset or Worn-out Planting Land. These were Wampanoag lands and in the northern area, some Massachusetts lived.

In 1650 Josiah Winslow bought the Namakeesett area from Chief Chickataubut, a Massachusetts Chief. English colonists moved into the Mattakeeset area around 1650. At that time this area was considered part of Duxbury.

Chant of Reincarnation

We shall live again,
We shall live again,
The sun's beams are spreading out – He'e'yo!
The sun's yellow rays are spreading out – Ahi'ni'yo!

SUNDAY MAY 8

MOTHER'S DAY! **SHARE THE PLATE**

Social Justice 9:00am

Worship 10:00am

SHARE THE PLATE

MONDAY MAY 9

Photography Class 1:00pm

WEDNESDAY MAY 11

Bell Choir 4:00pm

THURSDAY MAY 12

Small group 10:30am

SUNDAY MAY 15

Worship 10:00 a.m.

MONDAY MAY 16

Photography class 1:00pm

WEDNESDAY MAY 18

Bell Choir 4:00pm

THURSDAY MAY 19

Governing Board Mtg. 7:00pm

FRIDAY MAY 20

SATURDAY MAY 21

Bay Players Performance
8:00pm

SUNDAY MAY 22

Worship 10:00 am

Bay Players Performance
8:00pm

MONDAY MAY 23

PFLAG 7:00-9:00pm

R.E. Meeting 7:00pm

TUESDAY MAY 24

JUNE BELLRINGER DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY MAY 25

Bell Choir 4:00pm

FRIDAY MAY 27

Bay Players Performance
8:00pm

SATURDAY MAY 28

Bay Players Performance
8:00pm

SUNDAY MAY 30

Worship 10:00 Am

No RE

MONDAY MAY 30

MEMORIAL DAY! 
OFFICE CLOSED



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. If you know someone needing assistance during **May**, the contact is **Kathy Bray**, kbray8832@gmail.com, 339-793-0073.

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

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)

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 –

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)
Hand Bells 4:00 p.m.

THURSDAYS –

Book Group 9 a.m.
Worship Committee 7:00 p.m.
(1st Thurs. each month)
Agenda Setting 7-8 p.m.
(2nd 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)



Maypole Dance and May Basket Workshop **This Saturday, April 30th!**



We will dance around the Maypole and make beautiful May Day baskets.

When: Saturday, April 30th, 2022

Time: 10AM-Noon

Where: The Front Lawn

Rain Date: Sunday, May 1st

Time: 1:00-3:00PM

Come join us for this fun multi-generational event!
And, bring a friend or two!

Please RSVP to Joy Sawyer at joysawyer12@gmail.com to let us know how many will be in your group.



The June Bell-Ringer Deadline
Tuesday, May 24th



SUMMER FAIR NEWS!!

First Parish Church Summer Fair Saturday, June 18th from 8:30am to 2pm.

Fair Set up Friday June 17th -all day!

Haul Day Saturday June 11th We need your help!

Fair Donations and Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are needed to help sort donations, set up/break down the fair, and help sell goods and food on fair day. The Summer Fair is a great place to get to know your fellow UUs, help our church raise money, and become a part of our church history. To volunteer just a few hours or an entire day, please see/contact any of the people mentioned in this flyer or see our sign up table at coffee hour.

Donations Needed! Donations can be dropped off at the church during business hours and Sundays before and after church beginning May 28th. To schedule a pick-up of large items or furniture on Haul Day please call Lenore at the church office. DO NOT place your donations in the church shed as it is currently being used for the Box Project.

PLANTS: When thinning out your perennials, please consider donating extra plants to the Fair. Day lilies and Irises do not sell well, but all other perennials are welcome. If you have questions, need pots, or help dividing please contact **Liz Christmann**, alil2@comcast.net or **781-585-6107**.

JEWELRY: Women's, men's, and children's jewelry including Gold, sterling silver, and precious gems, costume jewelry, watches, clean hair accessories, broken or single earrings, gold or sterling pieces and broken strings of beads, Jewelry boxes- all sizes, 15 scarves (not winter scarves), pocketbooks and wallets in good condition, and small boxes for display of fine jewelry. Please, no winter scarves or other clothing items.

WHITE ELEPHANT: Household & Decorative goods that are clean and in good condition. Small kitchen appliances should be in working condition. No clothing or shoes. Please no TVs or computers. No coffee mugs with logos of any kind.

AUCTION: Furniture in good, saleable condition. Please, no appliances of any type, television or television stands, treadmills, mattresses or heavy exercise equipment, couches of any type, and no stuffed or upholstered furniture of any kind unless in new condition.

COLLECTABLES: All collectables in good, clean and saleable condition. Please, no broken or chipped dishes and or glass, no sharp objects such as razors, knives, or garden tools etc

SPORTING GOODS/TOOLS: All sporting goods and tools, pet items and gardening items. All items must be clean and in good condition. Please, no outdated electronics, computers, computer monitors, outdated televisions or heavy exercise equipment

CHILDREN'S WHITE ELEPHANT: Toys, games and puzzles in good, clean and saleable condition. Please, no car seats, cribs or videotapes

BAKE TABLE: Baked sweets and treats are needed!

Please sign up at coffee hour. Thank you for supporting this community wide event! **Tracy Wagner**



Attention All Gardeners!

It's that time of year again, the gardens are springing up and and it's time to get out and divide up your perennials, clean out your sheds, and think about the plant sale at the Church Fair! We need your help to make our Fair a success

We appreciate donations of garden tools, garden decor, and decorative pots. Most importantly we need plants!

Please consider potting up some of your extra plants for the fair. You can leave your donated plants under/by the stairs outside (Town Hall side) going up to the Harvey Assembly Hall.

If you need help or would like to help with the plant sale please contact Liz Christmann, lizchristmann@gmail.com, 781-585-6107 or sign up after church.

Iris and Orange daylillies and do not sell well so please add those to your compost. Thank you!

This Friday, April 29th!!

The goal of our FUN Friday initiative is build relationships in our community. As many of you may know, we recently co-sponsored an event with Congregation Shirat Hayam in Marshfield — the start of a wonderfully collaborative relationship. Building on our momentum from the Purim Party, we are pleased to invite you to the Chocolate Seder, a fun way to explore the tradition of Passover for people of all ages!

Register for the Chocolate Seder



Join us to learn about, and participate in,
the Jewish tradition of a Passover Seder...
with a tasty twist!

The seder encourages question asking. So
right from the start, a chocolate seder asks:
*Why is this seder different from all other
seders?*

Friday, April 29th | 6:00-7:30pm

Congregation Shirat Hayam
185 Plain St. (Rt 139), Marshfield

FUN FOR ALL AGES



ANNUAL MEETING

Attention All Committee Chairs!
Sunday, June 5th, 2022 at 9:30am
Annual Meeting!

COMMITTEE REPORTS NEEDED!

Your reports must be submitted by **Sunday, May 1st** to be included in the Annual Meeting package!



Only 56 Days Until Fisherman's Services Begin Again!

Our first Fisherman's Service of the Summer will be on June 26, 2022. It will be a glorious sharing of some of our favorite poems. Then over the next 10 Sundays, we will be asking YOU to think of the serious, sad, funny, silly, weighty, or absurd subject you'd like to present over 10-15 minutes to a friendly, receptive audience on our magnificent patio one sunny Sunday morning (equally magnificent Chapel if it's raining).

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!!

We can't wait to hear from you—Reserve your Sunday Now!

Contact Michael Gardner to reserve the Sunday that best fits your summer plans.



DUXBURY SPRING LITTER SWEEP

**SATURDAY
MAY 7TH, 2022
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**REGISTER/TRASH DEPOSIT
AT
TARKILN COMMUNITY
CENTER**

