

The Bell-Ringer

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

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ORGANIZATION
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DUXBURY, MA
PERMIT #12



OCTOBER 2022



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This Month's Whole-Church Theme is "COURAGE".

October 2th -- "The Courage To Forgive" -- As our Jewish neighbors celebrate Yom Kippur in their new worship space (our Children's Chapel), let's consider the healing power of forgiveness.

October 9th -- "Lifestyles of the World's Longest-Lived People" -- Come learn about the lifestyle factors that have been identified as commonalities among the areas of the world with the highest concentrations of people living into their 90's and beyond. As you listen, see how many of the factors you practice already and which you can take up to add years to your life!"

October 16th -- "The Courage to Change" -- Change is an inevitable part of this human journey, but it's not always an easy thing to do or to accept. How can we summon the courage to deal with the changes in our lives? (**AFTER CHURCH NEW TO UU--see more inside**)

October 23th -- "The Courage to Face an Inconvenient Truth: Climate Change and Displacement." -- This year's UN Sunday theme is "Displacement and Human Rights." We'll look deeply at the reality of migration and displacement that our continuing climate crisis will produce and what actions we can take. (**THANKS TO CINDY FIORINI FOR THIS TOPIC**) - **-(WORSHIP ASSOCIATE TRAINING AFTER CHURCH--see more inside)**

October 30th -- The Courage to Love: "Do The Ones I've Loved and Lost Still Belong to Me?" -- (In the tradition of the Day of the Dead, children and adults are invited to bring a photo or other object to share in commemoration of departed loved ones in our annual ritual honoring those who are no longer among us.

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1

South Shore Folk Group Concert
7:00pm

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2

Worship 10:00am

Cell Program Mtg. 9:00am

Community Pancake Brunch

11:15am after worship

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5

Hand Bells Practice 5:00pm

THURSDAY OCTOBER 7

Book Club 9:00am

Worship/Music Meeting 7:00pm

FRIDAY OCTOBER 7

South Shore Folk Group - Kids

Night - 7:00pm

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9

Worship 10:00am



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

"I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud. So I like best of all autumn.... Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor of the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age. It knows the limitations of life and is content. From a knowledge of those limitations and its richness of experience emerges a symphony of colors..." Lin Yutang

My Spiritual Friends,

Yes, it has happened----autumn has arrived!! The changing winds, the beginning of fall colors, the crisp morning air...

Autumn is perhaps the most spiritual season--autumn fills up our senses and our souls. It's not hectic like springtime or too hot like summer or too cold like winter often is. Autumn is a time for yard sales and sweeping up leaves---moving aside the old to make way for the new..

(Continued on page 2)

First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts

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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, 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 . . .

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THIS SEASON?

As I contemplate this question for myself, I think I'll stop a moment and make a homemade pumpkin latte!!!

See ya in church!



Catherine





PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

- Your Governing Board met on September 22 tasked with approving a budget to present to the Annual Financial Meeting. We did approve such a budget which was very difficult as we tried to bring down a projected deficit while still funding our programs and our staff at least adequately. As many of you know, the Annual Financial Meeting passed an amended budget yesterday, September 25 which provided 4% cost of living raises to our staff, rather than leaving out our Minister and CLLL. It was, as I believe Jon Lehman said, more of an "aspirational budget" which I like the sound of but the projected deficit was larger. The Governing Board has committed to working closely with all the financial groups this year to re-examine our policies and practices around our spending, our cell funds, our income and our investments. We are still coming out of unprecedented times from the pandemic and I believe, still have not seen the end of those uncertainties. We have much work to do and are ready to roll up our sleeves and do it!!
- On other matters, we rejected a bid to buy out our cell program and steeple rights at the very sage advice of our Building Use representatives, Bob Clark and Jon Lehman. Having control of our steeple is very important to us.
- We set a date for an ALL COMMITTEE CHAIR meeting for Wednesday October 12 at 7 p.m. via zoom. Please plan to attend if you are chair or vice chair of a committee or task force. The more we can communicate together, the smoother and more fun our year will be. If you would like to put it on your calendar, we also set a date for a January more social committee chair meeting at Cedar Hill. January. 22 at 5 p.m.
- One of the most important tasks of the year will be to plan the transition in ministry. We will be presenting information on that throughout the year, but let me outline a little here. We will be having an interim minister next year. After a long, successful ministry we need to take the time to discern who we are, who want to be and what we want in a new minister. We need to form a search committee. A period of time with an interim will give us the opportunity for a careful search process. We will have folks from the UUA coming to talk to us this year. As soon as possible we will put together a worship service and talk back to begin to explore this issue together. However, we won't have any interim names to choose from until May so patience is the word of the day! Please feel free to contact me at any time.

In faith,
Cindy Ladd Fiorini
Governing Board President

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION? OCTOBER 2022

Our theme this month is **COURAGE!** We all know that courage isn't something magical inside us that prevents us from being afraid. It's about pushing through fear, self-doubt and anxiety and doing hard things despite being worried or frightened.

In RE this month, we'll help kids to understand that courage is being afraid of something and doing it anyway! We all need courage for lots of things, from holding a snake, first day in a new school, or standing up for ourselves.



We are very excited to welcome several new families over the past few weeks, 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! We'll be reaching out to ask for volunteers in the community to help out in RE – always a fun and rewarding experience.

We have lots of FUN events/activities planned for October. Have a look:

- Sunday, Oct. 2nd We are co-hosting a wonderful Pancake Brunch with our Shirat Hayam after the service. YUM!
- Sunday, Oct 9th, Meghan Watts, a new member, will be in the pulpit as Rec. Catherine has the morning off. Because it is a holiday weekend, we will be offering fun, relaxed playtime for kids who are in attendance
- RE will be co-sponsoring a Halloween Party on Friday, Oct 28th at the church. We'll have pumpkins to decorate, music, and smores by a campfire. Stay tuned for more details!

"All you need is confidence in yourself. There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. The true courage is in facing danger when you are afraid, and that kind of courage you have in plenty." - Frank Baum, 'The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz'.

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

PLYMOUTH LUNCH PREPARATION

Every Tuesday our own Bob Hughes goes to Plymouth Center and delivers freshly made turkey and cheese sandwich lunches to our homeless friends.

We need 2 people each week to make just 10 sandwiches each, and 1 person to make desserts. It's an easy way to make a big difference!

Any questions please call Donna Savicki 781-696-3026 or Sherry Gardner 617-650-7473. THANK YOU!

Please click link below to sign up:

[Sign Up Here](#)





Unique Volunteer Program for Head Start Families

Please sign up for the **Box Project** after church or by contacting Carrie Meier at carriemeier1@comcast.net or 781-934-6657. The first delivery will be due Oct. 23rd.

Working with **South Shore Head Start**, Box Project volunteers work with a team to provide food, household supplies, clothing and books to nine families who need this boost for one school year.

Head Start social workers choose the families most in need of this support. Each school month the family fills in a request form that lists what food or clothing they need. **A coordinator** divides the request among the team. Each team member buys their share of the request and leaves it in the shed at First Parish Church. Each spends between \$25 and \$35 per month. Volunteer **drivers** deliver the donations to the Head Start school or directly to the family.

You can make a difference in a child's life! Sign up for the Box Project!



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MONDAY OCTOBER 10

Columbus Day

Office Closed

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12

Hand Bells 5:00pm

ALL COMMITTEE CHAIR/TASK

FORCE MEETING 7:00pm -- Zoom

THURSDAY OCTOBER 13

Book Club 9:00am

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15

Rental - Hall

SUNDAY OCTOBER 16

Worship 10:00am

Social Justice 9:00am

Membership Presentation after
worship

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19

Hand Bells 5:00pm

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20

Book Club 9:00am

Governing Board 7:00pm

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22

South Shore Folk Group Concert
7:00pm

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23

Worship 10:00am

Worship Associate Training
11:15-11:45am

MONDAY OCTOBER 25

November Bellringer Due Date

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26

Hand Bells 5:00pm

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27

Book Club 9:00am

FRIDAY OCTOBER 28

Bay Player Performance 8:00pm

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29

Bay Player Performance 8:00pm

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31

Worship 10:00am

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Bay Player Performance 3:00pm



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 9:00a.m. (3rd Sun. each month)
Cell Program
Social Justice 9:00a.m. (3rd Sun. each month)

MONDAYS -

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

TUESDAYS -

Communications 7:00p.m. (2nd Tuesday of every month)

WEDNESDAYS -

Hand Bells 5:00p.m.
Staff meeting 11:30 a.m. (weekly)
Buildings & Grounds 9-11 a.m. (1st Wed. each month)

THURSDAYS -

Book Group 9:00 a.m.
Worship/Music Committee 7:00 p.m. (1st 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)

New to UU Sunday, October 16th



We cordially invite new or new-ish friends and members, and even "seasoned" First Parish UU's to join us on Sunday, October 16th after church for our New to UU program. This program is designed to give an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and

First Parish Church Duxbury. During the New to UU program you will learn more about our UU faith and have opportunities to connect further with our community.

Our minister, Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, will be joined by Dr. Kate Sullivan, our Director of Congregational Life and Learning, and representatives from several of the important committees within our church. They will speak briefly about their committee work and responsibilities and what belonging to FPC means to them. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and get to know one another. We will be serving a wonderful lunch, and childcare is available. We hope you will join in!

Hosted by the Membership Committee





Worship Associate Training
Sunday, October 23, 11:15-11:45am

Catherine and the Worship Committee hope that you will consider attending a brief training program on October 23 at 11:15 for persons who are interested in serving as Worship Associates for the church.

Worship Associates generally assist Catherine, visiting ministers, or lay leaders in the pulpit by performing a variety of roles including Call to Worship, Readings, assisting with Joys and Concerns, etc. The regular presence of a layperson /worship associate in the pulpit reminds us all of the diverse people who represent this congregation and that ours is a shared ministry.

If you are interested in attending this orientation/training program, or if you have any questions about the program, please contact Liz Christmann, Chair of the Worship Committee, at lizchristmann@gmail.com or call at 781 588 5464 so we can get an accurate count of participants. Current Worship Associates are encouraged to attend if possible, as a refresher. Thank you so much for considering this exciting opportunity.





Join the Banned Books Book Club!

We are seeing a rapid acceleration of book censorship occurring across the US. More than 2,500 different book bans have taken place over the past year, according to the American Library Association.

Book Club Overview: Over this church year we will read and discuss books that are frequent targets of censorship.

- You pick the meeting time that fits for you - daytime in-person or evening via Zoom.
- Pick a book that appeals to you. For each topic there will be at least 3 selections to pick from. Read one or all.
- Open to the community, invite friends and family!

First meeting Wednesday, November 16: 10AM via zoom (look for a link a day or so ahead) or 7PM in person at church. We will discuss books related to gender, books which have been the most frequently challenged of the past 2 years.

For the first meeting read one or more of the following:

Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out by Susan Kuklin. The author interviews six transgender or gender-neutral young adults, and includes photographs, helping us understand the emotional and physical journey each youth has taken.

Melissa by Alex Gino. (Previously published as ***George***.) This short novel is aimed at middle graders. When people look at Melissa, they think they see a boy named George. But she knows she's a girl. "Timely, touching... *George* may be the most right-now book imaginable." -- *New York Times Book Review*

Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe. This memoir about being gender nonbinary is in graphic novel form.

Hope to see you on November 16th!



Thursday Morning Book Group

This informal group has been ongoing for some time. We meet every Thursday morning from 9 to 10 at the church for a discussion of the week's reading. We have read many collections of essays and short stories in the past as well as three or four chapters at a time of novels and non fiction. We take suggestions from the group members for what to read next.

The word "informal" is important as we often veer off subject and get into other interesting discussions. So, if you think you might enjoy a group like this, come and join us.

P.S. we have decided to read Search by Michelle Huneven beginning next week.



Update on the Afghan Family Living in Our Parsonage

10 months ago our congregation generously offered our parsonage to an Afghan family that came to the US after the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban. Maruf and Zia arrived speaking no English and had not been educated in Afghanistan, unable to read or write in their native language, Pashto. Translators were in short supply with such a large number of Afghans arriving in the US at one time and this posed a great challenge for our volunteers.

I've had the privilege of working closely with the family focusing my energies on the care and education of the children and have come to know the family well. It's a busy household with 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls ages 9, 7, 6, 5, 3 and 7 months. The youngest, Sohail was born here and his parents are so proud that he is a US citizen! The children are incredibly independent and resourceful, cleaning up after play or meals without being asked and looking out for one another. The family has accomplished so much in their short time in the US with education a priority to them along with the great challenge of learning English.

We were very fortunate that we had some experienced ESL teachers in our volunteer group. Meredith Lehman, a FPC member, has led a team of volunteers to work with Maruf and Zia on English 5 mornings a week since their arrival. We also put together a child care team so that the children not in school would also be getting a language rich experience with volunteers. The children's progress in English has been phenomenal and we can now have brief conversations with Maruf and Zia. It has been a totally rewarding experience for our volunteers and Maruf and Zia have expressed their gratitude to us many times.

The Duxbury Schools have been very supportive of the family and presently there are 4 children attending, 2 in kindergarten, a 1st and 3rd grader. The 3 year old is attending Berrybrook Preschool 3 days a week and Maruf and Zia have just begun an ESL program at Quincy Community College 2 days a week. What an exciting moment for Zia, attending a formal school for the first time in her life! Maruf proudly wears his new Quincy College hat bought at the bookstore. They are all so eager to learn!

Those of us that have spent time with the family have been amazed at the resilience and motivation of our new friends. Maruf was working within weeks of his arrival and is currently working at French Memories, riding his bike to his shifts. We have had the pleasure of learning about their culture and traditions. We never enter the house without being greeted warmly by Maruf and offered tea. Having a snack or meal sitting on the floor around a tablecloth trying traditional Afghan foods has been a treat. Zia is a great cook and she makes the naan bread they eat at every meal.

Our congregation should be proud of its generosity and the many volunteers that have given so much time to this family. They are very grateful for the love and support they have received here and have recently expressed that the volunteers are like family to them.

Kathy Bray





at First Parish Duxbury

OUR 44th SEASON HAS STARTED! LIVE SHOWS!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 - GRACE MORRISON CONCERT



\$20 Members, \$22 Non-Members
Vaccination and Masks recommended
Snacks for sale! Lots of music! Folk Friends!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 - YOUTH OPEN MIC

\$5 Everybody!

Also planned for our fall season:

Saturday, Oct 22 Coffeehouse with Chuck Williams, Cici Eberle opens, Open Mic

Saturday Nov 12 - Racky Thomas in Concert

Friday Nov 18 - Youth Open Mic

More info at our website <http://www.ssfmc.org>

Come on down, and support LIVE MUSIC at the Club!