

The Bell-Ringer

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Nov. 6th -- We welcome back UU drummer and worship leader **Matt Meyer** to lead a lively worship service for all ages that invites us to consider what architects, masons, and the sound of water can teach us about crafting a home by hand, and what rivers remind us about living a life in motion and movement.

Nov. 13th -- **"What Will You Sacrifice For Freedom?"** -- As we honor the veterans among us, we can each ask ourselves what WE are willing to sacrifice for freedom and democracy

Nov. 20th -- **"Being Thankful in a Thankless World"** -- in the midst of all the struggle, chaos and even despair of these times, can an ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE be an antidote?

Nov. 27th-- **"Making Deeper Connections, the Small Group Experience"** -- Let's celebrate our strong Small Group Ministry at First Parish ! (Worship will include a mini Small Group experience)

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3

Book Club 9:00am

Worship/Music 7:00pm

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4

English Class 10:00-11:30am

BAY PLAYERS PERFORMANCE

8:00pm

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5

Shirat Hayam 10:00-11:30am

BAY PLAYERS PERFORMANCE

8:00pm

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6

Worship 10:00am

Cell Program Meeting 9:00am

BAY PLAYERS PERFORMANCE

3:00pm

MONDAY NOVEMBER 7

Seeing Sacred Photography Class
10:00am

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10

Book Club 9:00am

(Continued on page 7)



*Warmest Thanksgiving Greetings from
All from the Staff at First Parish Church!*



Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen

Dr. Kate Sullivan

Lenore O'Malley

Ed Swanborn

Elaine Stephansky

Richard Roquemore

Damian Purro

First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts

P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A)

Email: uuduxbury@verizon.net

Telephone: 781-934-6532

Website: www.duxburyuu.org



A liberal religious community dedicated to nurturing individual spiritual development, promoting understanding and working for social justice.

We welcome people of all races, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, Minister

Edwin Swanborn, Music Director

Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator

Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Dr. Kate Sullivan, Acting Director of Community Life & Learning

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

Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Governing Board

From the Governing Board: The President's Report

Happy November! October was a busy month at First Parish Church. I believe the highlight of my month was leading the New to UU luncheon in Catherine's absence. It was so lovely to see new, interested people who are seeking a church community. Community is really one of the things we do best! Thank you to Joy Sawyer, Kathy Bray and the membership committee for putting a great event together.

Our Governing Board meeting was missing a few members last Thursday including Rev. Catherine who was in Australia helping to deal with a family emergency and our Clerk, Regina Mortland, whose 100 year old mother had died after a full and long life, and according to Regina, "on her own terms." Our condolences to you Regina.

The Governing Board meeting covered a myriad of topics from looking into consolidating a couple of committees (Systems and Information Technology and Communications), pursuing our need to have monthly all-financial meetings and appointing a committee to oversee our insurance needs. We also visited the subject of the ministerial transition and continued a discussion of a one versus a two year interim minister. I will be contacting the Office of Ministerial Transitions at the UUA. Right now the person I need to talk to is out on a half sabbatical due to return in mid November, so sit tight and stay tuned. As I have said before, there is not too much we can do until after the first of the year, and really until much later than that, in May. But we will have informational meetings and opportunities starting in January.

We are also taking a close look at our Black Lives Matter banner as there has been some talk about the Black Lives Matter organization that shows that organization in a bad light. Our Black Lives Matter banner preceded the organization, but it is worth a look and perhaps a future wording decision. We will update you as we learn more.

Lastly we started a discussion about strengthening Denominational ties - both with the UUA and the New England region. One thing we would like to talk about and get some enthusiasm going about is having a group of people from our church attend the UUA General Assembly this year which is in Pittsburgh. Please see me if you would like any information on it.

I hope you have a healthy and delicious Thanksgiving dinner with friends and/or family.

Cindy Ladd Fiorini





We have been very busy in RE the past few weeks. Lots and lots of littles are having fun with their new church friends. Because we've got so many kids under 3 right now, we're changing up the flow of the morning. Our main childcare provider, Donna Clifford and a volunteer will be in the RE space for kids 3 and under to be dropped off **before** the service starts. Kids 4 on up will still begin in the Sanctuary with their families. We think that this will help new families get settled in. It feels so good to welcome all the new kids and their families to our RE program. We are building community and connection with our kids and the rest of our wonderful multigenerational community! We'll be reaching out to ask for volunteers in the community to help so please consider helping a few Sundays if you can.

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

- Sunday, Oct. 30th Halloween Party during coffee hour. Music, fun foods, costume contest, trick-for-a-treat and bring a pumpkin for carving!
- Sunday, Nov 6th Special drumming service with Matt Mayer! Always a great service!
- Sunday, Nov 13 Regular RE programming
- Sunday Nov. 20th RE Feast! Re Comm members and kids will offer a coffee hour "Thanksgiving" feast with savory soups, delicious bread & Mac & Cheese for the kids. Let's give thanks for our beloved community.
- Sunday Nov 27th There will be NO Re classes or childcare.

Our church-wide theme for the month of November is **CHANGE**. Change is all around us, especially this year as we transition to new ministry next year. Sometimes we may wish that things would stay the same, but we know the one constant in life is change. Here's some sage advice from Socrates. "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new" -Socrates



Love & Blessings, Kate



Ring Out Justice!

News of Social Justice Activities at First Parish Church

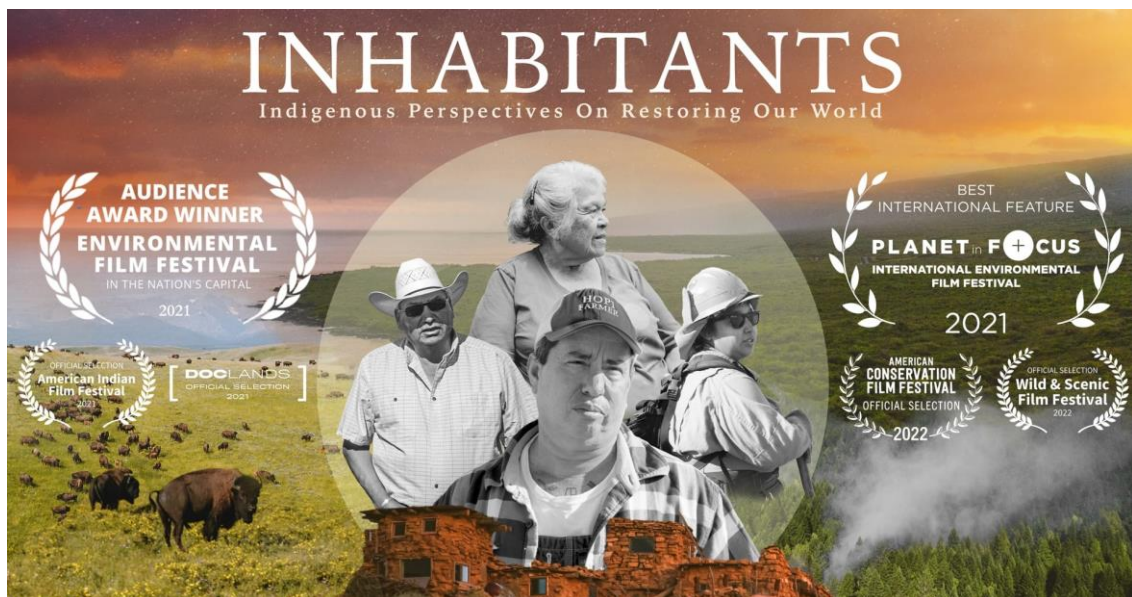
Social Justice Committee Members:

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.

INHABITANTS

Indigenous Perspectives On Restoring Our World



November 13th, 11:15am (after coffee hour in the parlor)

INHABITANTS shows us how Native People are working to restore their environment and provide for their families. For millennia Indigenous tribes had conserved their lands while providing for all their needs. In this moving documentary, you will see how they can lead us toward restoration and conservation of our environment and climate.

Brought to you by the FPC Social Justice Committee



UUSC'S Guest At Your Table,
Share the Plate Recipient for
November 20

On November 20th, First Parish Church will honor and celebrate our human rights organization, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) through its fund-raising campaign, Guest At Your Table (GAYT.)

UUSC works in more than 20 countries, partnering with over 60 grassroots organizations. Thousands of individuals participate in and benefit from UUSC programs. The theme of this year's GAYT is **HOPE. COURAGE. ACTION.** During this year's GAYT, we invite you to witness stories of our partners around the world as they tell you about how UUSC supports **Hope, Courage and Action** in their communities.

To read about this year's featured partners go to: uusc.org GAYT. To donate go to donate.uusc.org or mail a check to FPC (memo GAYT) to the Church Office. Shelter Rock Church continues to generously match donations of \$150 or more.



Thank You to Box Project Volunteers

We appreciate so very much the many volunteers who make the Box Project possible. This month, the families were helped in many ways.

Without your support, they would not have been able to provide healthy food, clean clothes and a clean home. With prices rising steadily it is more and more difficult for families to do this.

Five volunteers work together to help one family. If you would like to learn more about the Box Project program or volunteer to be part of it, please contact Carrie Meier at carriemeier1@comcast.net.

Continued Calendar from pg 1:**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11****VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVED**

Office Closed

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12

Rental Hall 9:00-1:00pm

South Shore Folk Group Concert

7:00pm

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13

Worship 10:00am

**"INHABITANTS" MOVIE SHOWING
AFTER CHURCH****MONDAY NOVEMBER 14**

Seeing Sacred 10:00am

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16

Banned Books Book Club

10:00am in-person or 7:00pm Zoom

Bells 5:00pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17**December Bellringer Due Date!**

Book Club 9:00am

Gov. Board Meeting 7:00pm

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18

English Class 10:00-11:30am

South Shore Folk Group – Kids Night

7:00pm

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

Worship 10:00am

Social Justice 9:00am

**R.E. THANKSGIVING FEAST AFTER
CHURCH!****MONDAY NOVEMBER 21**

Seeing Sacred 10:00am

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23**Office Closes early**

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24**THANKSGIVING DAY****OFFICE CLOSED**

Bumpus Park Service 7:30am

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25**OFFICE CLOSED****SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27**

Worship 10:00am

Small Group Ministry Sunday

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

PFLAG 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30

Bell Choir 5:00pm

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

**Minister's Office Hours:**

Catherine's regular office hours are **Mon., Wed., and Thur.** from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Tuesdays are her days off and Friday's are her sermon writing days. She may be contacted by cell at (781) 635-5906. If you need to schedule an appointment during office hours or any time after office hours, please feel free to contact Catherine at TheRevCatherine@aol.com, at her cell number, or by leaving a message at the church.

**Church Office Hours**

The FPC church office is open **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** and **Tuesdays 8:30-11:30am.** Please call Lenore, **781-934-6532** or email at uuduxbury@verizon.net if you need anything.

ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS**SUNDAYS -**

Family/Child Sunday (1st Sun. each month)
 Joys & Concerns (2nd Sun. each month)
 Announcement Sunday (1st & 3rd Sun. each month)
 Silent Joys & Concerns (4th Sun. each month)
 Membership 9:00a.m. (3rd Sun. each month)
 Cell Program (9:00a.m. 1st Sun. each month)
 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)

**Plans from the Treasurer**

We will be scheduling three after church meetings with a zoom option to discuss church finances. These sessions will be held in January, March and May.

The purpose will be to provide information about our finances and answer any questions. We are looking to develop strategies for funding our deficits and changes to the use of the cell funds and endowments.

If you have concerns or questions please contact me at weavenel@gmail.com or 781-582-4210.

Nancy Landgren, Treasurer



December Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Thursday, November 17th, 9:00 a.m.

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



Envisioning Update

The Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century working group is continuing its efforts in three broad areas:

1. *Family friendliness*: We are looking into creating child-friendly/breast-feeding-mother-friendly spaces in the sanctuary and are exploring possibilities with the Religious Education committee. It is interesting to see how the current wheelchair-accessible spaces in the sanctuary are attractive to families because of the added space they offer and the carpeted floor that children can play on.
2. *The vestibule*: The vestibule is dark and uninviting. Some of the current furniture needs to be rethought/removed. Improved lighting could make a big difference as could some welcoming materials and a revamped historical exhibit. The Historical Committee is actively looking at this and we are also seeking the Membership Committee's input.
3. *Protection for the tablets*: We are exploring a simple solution to protect the historic tablets in the choir loft. Our main concern is the traffic from workers accessing the cell tower equipment in the steeple. Our plan is to create a fabric protector to be hung in place when we know there will be cell tower activity. A movable Lexan/Plexiglas protector could serve the same purpose, but right now we believe that the simplest solution is to use fabric. We have measurements for such a protector but are seeking input on how best to create it. We are looking for volunteers in the congregation who are experienced with sewing and fabrics. Please contact Jim Hamilton (jim@greenharbor.com, 781-724-6456) if you can help.

We also know that technology use is looming issue, particularly related to: (1) concerns about sound/hearing and (2) how to integrate video technology into the sanctuary. However in the short term, the working group is focusing on the three issues mentioned above.

Comments and feedback would be greatly appreciated!

The Envisioning the Meeting House in the 21st Century Working Group members:
 Jim Hamilton, Caroline Mitchell, Dorothy Pilla, Carol Robison, Emily Simeone, Tracy Wagner



Holiday Fair 2022 date: Saturday December 3rd

Mark your calendars! This year's Holiday Fair will take place on **Saturday, December 3rd from 9 am to 2 pm**. We need your help to make it a big success. In the coming weeks we'll have volunteer sign-up forms at coffee hour and more information about how you can help in the weekly e-distro.

We need your help in the following areas:

1. Gourmet & Bake Table: Prepare baked goods, jams, chutneys, and other tasty treats. (Please note: Pies sell very well!)
2. Silent Auction: Consider donating giftable items with a value of \$20 or more such as new items you want to re-gift, hand crafted items, sporting event or concert tickets, gift cards, and other items that folks will be excited to bid on.
3. Mrs. Kringles: Small holiday items, candles, ornaments or anything you want to re-gift is welcome. Holiday-themed jewelry is always a big hit. Look for a clearly marked box near the church office the week of the fair.
4. Ruby's Café: After a pandemic pause the ever-popular Ruby's Café is returning to the parlor. You can help with food donations, cooking, or as a server.
5. Gift basket raffle: New for this year we are planning a raffle of holiday-themed gift baskets. We'll need some creative thinking here. Can you help?
6. Greens: Deliver holly and evergreen boughs to the church by the end of November for our amazing greens artists. You can also help craft arrangements and wreaths the week before the fair.
7. Set-up/clean-up crew: Can you assist with set-up on Friday morning or clean-up after the fair on Saturday afternoon? We'd love to have your help.

Amazing things happen when we work together as a congregation!





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. We will meet in Nov, Jan, Mar and May.

- 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. Pick your meeting time:

- 10 AM in person at church or
- 7 PM via zoom (Zoom link will be available on our First Parish website Sunday 11/13)

In November 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!



COFFEE HOUR !

In Sept and Oct, the Fellowship committee hosted coffee hour. Starting in November, we'll begin rotating this responsibility by member & friend **LAST NAMES** unless there is a special Sunday event. See November's calendar below! (If you have 2 last names in your family – just pick one!)

When it's your turn, please come to church @ 9:15 AM to help set up and bring a food item to share. We'll post a manual in the kitchen (and soon on our website) about how to set up the coffee buffet in case there are any questions! Please no nuts but coffee cake, store bought cookies, fruit, veggies & dip, or crackers and cheese are always hits! Milk and ½ & ½ are always in the fridge. Damien, our sexton, makes the coffee!

We'll also post a tentative 2022-2023 calendar outside the church office soon!

November 6

As and Bs

November 13

C

November 20

Thanksgiving Feast after service
Fellowship will help host this RE event.

November 27

DEF

-Fellowship committee members:

Julie Lillys, Liz Connors, Jeanne Penvenne, & Eleanor McGonagle.





Partner Church News



Your Partner Church Committee announces that after almost 20 years of service as minister of our Partner Church in Nyaradszerada, Transylvania, the Reverend Szilard Sandor has moved on to take a similar position in a different parish. The committee has been aware since March 2022 that Szilard would be leaving our partner church ministry in the summer or fall of this year. He and his family have moved now to a home near his new congregation in a nearby area. Szilard's wife, Eva, will continue to teach at the same school. We have enjoyed a long relationship with Szilard and wish him and his family well. One of Szilard's major accomplishments during his ministry was overseeing the construction of the new church on the Nyaradszerada town square-- a project to which we at First Parish contributed significantly.

At this time, an interim minister is in place at our Partner Church and we await the naming of his replacement, hopefully in a timely manner. We remain in touch with our Nyaradszerada partners through a leader of their congregation, our English-speaking friend, Lorant. As we here at First Parish expect a similar series of changes in the coming year, we'll continue to nurture our longstanding relationship with our fellow Unitarians in Transylvania.

Partner Church Committee will update you as we receive more information , so stay tuned!



PLEDGING

PLEDGE UPDATE COMING IN THE MAIL!

All First Parish members and friends who have pledged will receive an update in the mail within the next few weeks. This is the pledge made for our current fiscal year (FY23) in response to the stewardship drive last spring. Many people like to be reminded of their pledge amount and where they stand at this time of year. As you may recall, our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30th and so the total amount of your FY23 pledge is not due until next June. We will also send out a 2022 tax statements in late January listing your contributions.

As was reported at the annual finance meeting, our pledge numbers are down considerably. Currently, we have 97 pledges for a total of \$160,679. This represents about a 10% decrease in number of pledges and in dollar amount compared to last year. If you have not made a pledge for this year and would like to – it is not too late! Please contact me, Peter Nappellio, or a member of the Stewardship team.

As a reminder, we can help arrange for automatic deductions using a bank account or credit card. Many people choose to make monthly donations and consider it one less thing to worry about. If you have questions about your pledge (or giving in general) at any time during the church year, please feel free to contact Peter Nappellio or myself.

Thank you for your generosity!
Amy Hamilton
Assistant treasurer

