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PAID
DUXBURY, MA
PERMIT #12

The Bell-Ringer

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



JANUARY 2023

OUR ALL CHURCH THEME THIS MONTH IS **"FINDING OUR CENTER".**

January 1st -- "One Last Chance to Stump the Minister!" -- This will be our last Question Box Sermon--one last opportunity to ask Catherine questions of faith, life and Community!

January 15th -- "Bearing Witness" -- Bob Hughes will join Catherine in talking about the ways, as Unitarian Universalists, we can help repair the world. (Bob will share about his work with the homeless.)

January 22nd -- "The Future of Religion and Unitarian Universalism: Dinosaurs, Pit Bulls, and other Classmates" - Religion, including Unitarian Universalism is at a moment in time. Can it survive? And what must it do in order to survive and matter? What must we do? We'll explore our place in today's world, and look at what the future might look like for our congregations, especially in a time of transition. **(Rev Keith Kron, Transitions Director for the UUA, preaching)**

January 29th -- "Going To the Center"--In keeping with this month's theme, we'll explore the labyrinth as a spiritual practice. After worship, Catherine's labyrinth will be assembled in the Harvey Assembly Hall so you can walk the labyrinth!

COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY JAN. 3

Bellringer Due Date

WEDNESDAY JAN. 4

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY JAN. 5

Book Club 9:00am

Worship/Music 7:00pm

Senior Men's 11:00am

FRIDAY JAN. 6

Classroom rental evening

SATURDAY JAN. 7

Shirat Hayam 10-11:30am

Shirat School 5:30-6:30pm chapel

SUNDAY JAN. 8

Worship 10:00am

Cell Program 9:00am

MONDAY JAN. 9

SSHAGLY 7:00-9:00pm

WEDNESDAY JAN. 11

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY JAN. 12

Book Club 9:00am

Small Group 10:30am fletcher



(Continued on page 6)



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

FOR A NEW BEGINNING

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,

Where your thoughts never think to wander,

This beginning has been quietly forming,

Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,

Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,

Noticing how you willed yourself on,

Still unable to leave what you had outgrown...

(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
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 . . .

*Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
 And out you stepped onto new ground,
 Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
 A path of plenitude opening before you.*

*Though your destination is not yet clear
 You can trust the promise of this opening;
 Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
 That is at one with your life's desire.*

*Awaken your spirit to adventure;
 Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
 Soon you will home in a new rhythm,
 For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

---John O'Donohue

BLESSINGS ON ALL OUR NEW BEGINNINGS IN 2023!

Catherine





From the Governing Board: The President's Report

Our last meeting on December 15th was held via zoom due to the uptick in infections.

We voted to have the Capital Projects Committee go forward with a fix to our boiler valves to the amount of \$2550.00 from Cell Capital Funds.

We are continuing to work on the issue of the sound system in the sanctuary. A different type of hand held microphone is being researched. Additionally, Ted Lillys will be training our sexton Damian and another yet to be named person to handle the sound board during services starting in January.

We heard that the theme for this year's fund drive will be "We Have a Good Thing Going" and that fund drive will officially start in March, although anyone wanting to pledge before then, or to change their pledge can contact either Mary Flanagan or Pat Slechts. Importantly we thanked RE and Membership for their roles in the December Holiday workshop and to RE for their successful Thanksgiving feast! We also thanked all the chairs, especially the BIG CHAIR, Jim Hamilton for a really successful Holiday Fair. Thank you again!

As to opportunities going forward I know that the ministerial transition is on many minds. You will all have the opportunity to hear more about it from Rev. Keith Kron of the Ministerial Transition Office of the UUA on Sunday January 22 when he will conduct the service for us. He will also be available during coffee hour for conversation. For all of you who are chairs or vice chairs of committees or task forces, Rev. Kron will be joining us at our second all committee chair meeting, which is primarily a social meeting, at noon at Cedar Hill. Please let your liaisons know if you can attend. Lunch will be served. More information elsewhere in Bell-Ringer.

Also coming up this winter will be ongoing discussions on the Article 2 Study Commission work. According to the UUA website:

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Work is being done at the UUA on our Principles and Purposes and we want our voice to be heard. Catherine preached on this topic in December and this will be the ongoing opportunity for discussion. Stay tuned

Lastly for now, we are supporting the Growth Team initiative for the Banned Book Club, with the topics of Holocaust denial and antisemitism being explored. Please see specifics elsewhere in Bell-Ringer.

I wish you all healthy and happy new years.

Cindy Ladd Fiorini, President



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful winter break filled with meaningful time spent with family and friends. Thanks to all who participated in our first Multigenerational Holiday Pageant – it was great way to kick off the holidays.



Who knew that dinosaurs were still around to witness the birth of Jesus!

This month our church-wide theme is about ***Finding our Center***. But what does that mean? When we think about being “centered” we often imagine taking a pause or making time for rest or stillness. We may find out center in meditation, or interacting with nature, reading poetry or praying. And yet, helping us find peace and calm is not the only work found on the path of finding our center. This month the folx at ***Soul Matters*** suggest that “being a “centered person” often involves the opposite of keeping things calm. It’s not simply a place of peace and calm; it’s also a place of being pushed and launched. What you hear in this deep space within is not just the whisper of “Rest” and “Breathe,” but also “Take a deep breath and jump!” We encounter an invitation there, not just relaxation. It’s a still point, yes. But a still point upon which we pivot and turn to something new.”

So this month in RE, we’ll be learning about and exploring our center by returning to our Principles (or Children’s Promises) to find stillness & calm as well as to push us to learn new things about our place in the world, and what our UU faith calls us to do.

How about you? Where are you after these last few years of tumult? I wonder “Where is your center sending you these days?” and “Where is your center calling you to go?”

Peace & Blessings, Kate





Ring Out Justice!

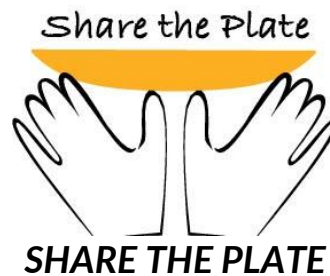
News of Social Justice Activities at First Parish Church

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.

**For January, Social Justice will meet on the 4th Sunday,
January 22nd at 9:00am! Just for this month!**



Our First Parish Church raised \$839.00 in our collection for Cranberry Hospice, in memory of Marianne Kauffman and other members of our beloved community. Thank you for all your donations.

We are still seeking nominations for consideration, and urge you to contact Kathleen Teehan or Eleanor McGonagle if you have any questions about the STP program or the application process.

Finally, ask us if you have questions about serving on this committee. We welcome another person.



PLYMOUTH LUNCH PREPARATION

WE NEED A FEW MORE SANDWICH AND DESSERT MAKERS!!

Every Tuesday our own Bob Hughes goes to Plymouth Center and delivers fabulous turkey and cheese sandwich lunches to our homeless friends. 2 people a week to make just 10 sandwiches each,
and 1 dessert maker!!!

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



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FRIDAY JAN. 13

Knitting Class 2:00pm parlor

Hall Rental 6:00-10:00pm

SUNDAY JAN. 15

Worship 10:00am

MONDAY JAN. 16

Office Closed

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

MLK Community Prayer Service

WEDNESDAY JAN. 18

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY JAN 19

Book Club 9:00am

Governing Board Meeting

7:00pm

SATURDAY JAN. 21

Shirat Hayam 10:00-11:30am

SUNDAY JAN. 22

Worship 10:00am

Committee Chair Mtg.

Cedar Hill 12:00pm

Social Justice 9:00am

MONDAY JAN. 23

PFLAG 7:00pm- Zoom

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

TUESDAY JAN 24

BELL RINGER DUE DATE

WEDNESDAY JAN. 25

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY JAN. 26

Book Club 9:00am

BANNED BOOK CLUB 10:00am

in-person and 7:00pm on Zoom

SUNDAY JAN. 29

Worship 10:00am



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 **JAN. & FEB.**, please contact **DEB WORSH** at 781-837-9030, DEBORAHWORSH@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 (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)



ATTENTION ALL CHAIRS!!

On **Sunday January 22** there will be a luncheon meeting of Chairs and Vice Chairs AND their significant others of **ALL committees and task forces at Cedar Hill at 12:00 noon.**

Special guest speaker will be Rev. Keith Kron of the UUA Ministerial Transition office.

Please plan on attending.
Also, for those of you who are not chairs, Rev. Kron will also be in the pulpit that Sunday.

Any questions contact Cindy Fiorini.



February Bell Ringer Deadline
Tuesday, January 24TH, 2023



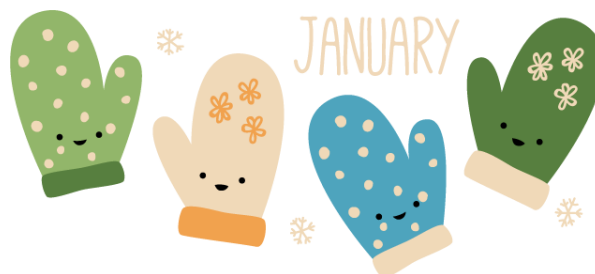
Cell Fund Grants Available

First Parish Church receives income from telecommunications companies that lease space in the church. A portion of these funds is available to support programs in communications, enrichment of church life, information systems and technology, and leadership development. Committees, members, and friends may [apply for grants](#). Youth applicants must apply through the Religious Education Committee. The Cell Program Grant Committee meets the first Sunday of the month, excluding July and August. Grant applications (other than social justice grants) should be submitted two weeks prior for review.

All cell grants must reflect UU principles and values and/or advance the mission and goals of First Parish Church. Grants may be used to create a new program or support an ongoing program within the church, and applicants should identify ways to measure success.

Copies of grant application forms are available from the church office or may be downloaded by going to: https://uudux.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Non_Capital_Cell_Funds_Application.pdf

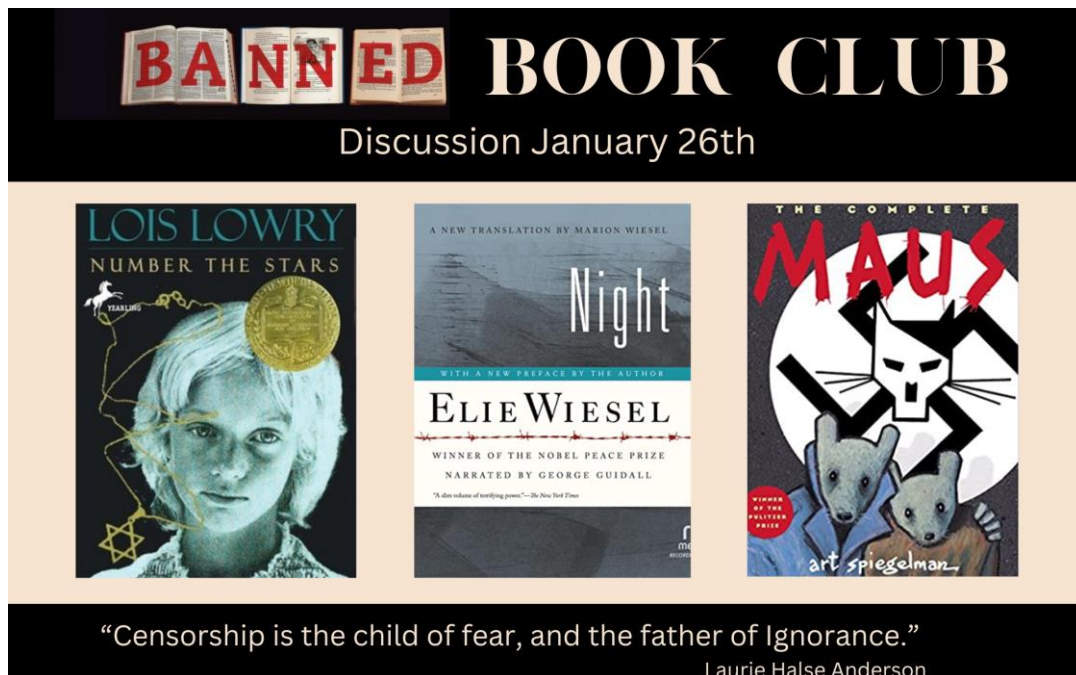
For more information call or email Sally Delisa (delisasally@yahoo.com) or Donna Savicki (dsavicki@comcast.net).



January Banned Book Club Read Discussion Group

Thursday, January 26th, 2023

It's time for our Banned Book Club's January read! We're featuring 3 important books on Antisemitism. Join us for our book discussion on **Thursday January 26th, both in-person at 10:00am and on Zoom at 7:00pm.**



Topic: **ANTI-SEMITISM BANNED BOOKS**

Time: Jan 26, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

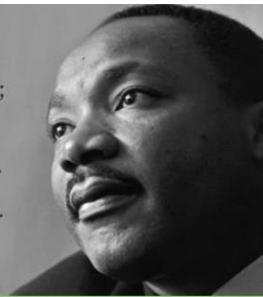
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86816757701>

Meeting ID: 868 1675 7701

Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that. Hate cannot
drive out hate; only love can do that.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Please join us for the annual
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Breakfast and Prayer Service

Hosted by the Duxbury Interfaith Council

Monday, January 16, 2023

Breakfast will be served at 8 a.m.
Bertram Hall, 21 Harden Hill, Duxbury

Prayer service at 9 a.m.
St. Margaret's Chapel,
30 Harden Hill

*Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require qualitative
change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.*

~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.