NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DUXBURY, MA
PERMIT #12

# The Bell-Ringer

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



# OUR ALL CHURCH THEME THIS MONTH IS "LOVE". WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**February 5**<sup>th</sup> -- "How Did LOVE Become the Doctrine of our Church?" — As we prepare further exploration of the UUA's proposed revisal of our Principles and Purposes, let's take a look at the Universalist stream of our UU tradition! (AFTER CHURCH DISCUSSION ON OUR PARSONAGE USE)

February 12<sup>th</sup> -- <u>"What's LOVE Got to Do With IT?"</u> -- Jazz pianist Paul McWilliams will join us as we consider how LOVE calls us to live as Unitarian Universalists (STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL)

**February 19**<sup>th</sup> -- Worship/Music Committee will provide a speaker/minister for this Sunday.

**February 26th – "**Broken Hearts Still Beat" -- How do we carry on with life when something or someone very important to us is lost or missing from our lives?



#### **COMING EVENTS**

WEDNESDAY FEB. 1

Bell Choir 5:00pm

**THURSDAY FEB. 2** 

Book Club 9:00am

The Studio Drop-in 9:00-12:00pm

Worship/Music 7:00p.m.

**SATURDAY FEB. 4** 

Shirat Hayam 10:00 chapel

SERVICE AUCTION! -- 5:00pm

**SUNDAY FEB 5** 

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Cell Program Mtg. 9:00am

MONDAY FEB. 6

Seeing Sacred Class 10:00am

WEDNESDAY FEB. 8

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY FEB. 9

Book Club 9:00am - Zoom

The Studio Drop-in 9:00-12:00pm

Small Group 10:30am



(Continued on page 7)

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...



"It is the obligation of every person born on a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks" –Dina Nayeri

#### Dear Friends,

In August 2021, this adorable young man and his family were in grave danger as the Taliban took over Afghanistan following the withdrawal of American troops. In the midst of gunfire, sirens and rockets, his two young parents guided their five little children onto a plane bound for America.

(Continued on page 2)

## First Parish Church

*Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts* P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A) Telephone: 781-934-6532 Email: uuduxbury@verizon.net 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

Meanwhile, in August 2021, at the annual retreat of your First Parish Governing Board, a motion was passed to seek approval of the congregation to house an Afghan refugee family at the church parsonage. A few weeks later, the congregation (YOU!) voted to house an Afghan family until June 2023.

Outreach to the Duxbury community led to donations of everything needed to house a family. A Go-Fund Me raised nearly \$50,000. We waited and waited and then, late one Thursday night, we were told that a family of five kids (with one on the way) was landing at Logan on Monday---and they were ours!

Over the past year we on DARI (Duxbury Afghan Resettlement Initiative) have fallen on love with our amazing family! We have also come to realize that, although our family has made great strides in acclimating to their new home, they are not ready to strike out on their own. Our fondest wish for them is an independent life—that is not quite possible yet. The family has made such progress over the past six months—the parents' English has made a break though, Maruf has gotten a second job, Zia is looking forward to working at home as a seamstress, lots of medical and dental issues they brought with them have been resolved.

Your Governing Board is giving serious consideration to extending the stay of the family in our parsonage to June 2024. Those of us who have been working with the family believe that they will be quite prepared for independence by that time!

We are looking for input from you—please join in the conversation after church on February 5<sup>th</sup> in the Parlor.

## **Catherine**





## **Monthly President's Report**

January has been a busy month here at First Parish especially as we prepare to make preparations for interim or transition ministry. We are also continuing to support the family from Afghanistan both by offering our parsonage but also in the number of volunteer hours that members of First Parish Church give to this family. I'll talk about these a little more in a moment.

We also have fundraising going on - Don't Miss the Service Auction on February 4! It will be fun AND delicious. If you can't attend, check out the ability to bid online (noted elsewhere in this Bell-Ringer.)

The Historical Committee is looking closely at our vestibule to see if we can make it more visitor - and member - friendly. Go take a look at it yourself. The number one priority out there at the moment is new lighting and keeping it clean and dusted!

Tracy and I met with representatives of the Finance groups and people in the church to begin to brainstorm how to streamline our processes and how to budget for the future. We want to make sure everyone is on the same page, has the same numbers and understands how all the elements work together. We will be meeting monthly for the foreseeable future. Anyone is welcome to attend if they want to observe the process.

OK. TRANSITION. This past Sunday we were pleased to welcome Rev. Keith Kron to our pulpit and to our annual Cedar Hill all-chair meeting. Rev. Kron is the head of the Ministerial Transition office at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). He was very thought-provoking in his sermon, helping us open our minds to new possibilities. It will be difficult to say goodbye to Catherine AND to the way the church has been the last 19 years with Catherine as our minister. The two things go hand in hand. At the all-chair meeting he presented an argument for a two year versus a one year interim hire. I think the bottom line is - do it well the first time so we don't have to re-do it after a few years because we weren't really ready. Many of us, myself included, who went in thinking just one year was enough for us, left being converted to a two year interim. I see it as an exciting challenge and time of discernment. We are a healthy vibrant community and it is up to us to maintain that.

Rev Kron also talked us through the process for the upcoming spring and it is as follows:

1. Early February we will be talking to all of you about the one year versus two year interim. I would like to hear from you about your thoughts, as would Tracy and the rest of the board. Tracy Wagner and Ted Lillys will be available specifically after church next Sunday to talk to you. I am always a phone call, text or email away.

claddfiorini@gmail.com or 617-921-6224. The other members of the board are Regina Mortland, Pat Slechta, Jay Bray, Donna Savicki, Emily Simeone and Nancy Landgren.

- 2. At our February Governing Board meeting on the 16th we will be voting on an Interim Ministry Search Committee. The committee will be a subgroup of the Governing Board. We will also vote on whether to pursue a two year or one year interim ministry.
- 3. There are some forms to fill out. There is a search packet to put together, all before the middle of April. Meanwhile prospective interim ministers are informing the UUA that they are interested in an interim next year.
- 4. In the beginning of May the searchers and searchees names are put together at the UUA and we are then given 6-8 names of potential interim ministers for the search committee to consider, interview and check references on. A decision in the form of a ranking of yeses and nos is returned to the UUA by the middle of May. It is a very condensed process. At the same time the potential interim ministers are ranking us!
- 5. We should know by the end of May if all goes according to plan!!

DARI - We are considering offering our parsonage to the Afghan family for an additional year. The family has made considerable progress since they arrived the beginning of December 2021 but they are not yet ready to live more independently. We will have an after church conversation on February 5th but again please feel free to contact me, Tracy or Catherine with any questions and/or concerns.

#### Cindy Ladd-Fiorini, President





This month our church-wide theme is LOVE, and we will be thinking about love as the foundation of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Coretta Scott King said that "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members," and often quoted her husband that "to serve, all one needs is a heart of grace and a soul generated by love."

This month we'll be asking how LOVE became the doctrine of our church, how love calls us to live as Unitarian Universalists, and how our faith can hold us when our hearts are broken by loss or longing. I invite you to think about how being a part of this beloved community helps you to cultivate a "heart of grace" as you move through with world with a "soul generated by love."

We'll also be using our Soul Matters curriculum to focus on love with our kids. We'll be making cards with

messages of love for members & friends of our church, explore why we say each week in Children's Chapel as part of our chalice lighting, "We light this chalice for the warmth of love, "and explore what it means to love ourselves.

Peace & Blessings, Kate



# Engagement Opportunities February, 2023

Wondering how you're going to get through our bleak mid-winter? Check out these great opportunities to have learn and have fun with friends in our community. If you have questions, contact Kate at <a href="mailto:katesullivan@uudux.org">katesullivan@uudux.org</a>.

Sundays: Soul Singers. Love to sing? Have no clue how to read music? Never sang in a choir before? Don't think you have a "great singing voice?" Then this is the choir for you! All you need is to love the joy of singing and strengthening your connections with FPC friends. We'll meet 2x per month after coffee hour in the Sanctuary beginning Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mondays: Sacred Seeing: Photography as Spiritual Practice. (with Kate) 10- 11:am in our new Studio Classroom. Join us this winter as we once again gather in community to learn about our "sacred sight," to create & share images, and have FUN!

**Thursdays:** *FPC Artworks Drop-In Studio.* Open every Thursday, 9am-noon starting Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bring your favorite artistic tools. Come have fun creating in community in our new Studio Classroom.

*Thursday Book Discussion Book*. Join us in the parlor every Thursday from 9:00-10:00am for an informal discussion.

Fridays: Kniting4Peace. Meets in the Parlor at 2pm. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month (Feb 10<sup>th</sup>). We stitch for each other; we stitch for the recipients of the items we create; and we crochet, knit, quilt, and weave for hope, healing and peace in our world.



## 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

#### 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!** 

#### Link to Help Out:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aRoaqecyllg9red1JCipI06NloL\_II7H8vtxxedKXek/edit?usp=sharing

#### The Land of the Patuxet

This map was drawn by Samuel de Champlain in 1605 when his ship anchored in the bay, now called Plymouth Bay. The Wampanoag Patuxet lived along this bay. Patuxet means the land of little falls, as the rivers then had many falls, where there were large herring runs.

The map shows their homes, called Wetos, fields of corn, beans and squash, and Patuxet men fishing along the shores and paddling dug-out canoes. They grew their crops by planting fish in a small circle, above which they planted their seeds. The squash grew up the corn and the beans grew outward to protect the soil from weeds. Boys stopped animals from eating the fish and crops.

By 1619, the Wampanoag Patuxet had all died from a plague that was brought here by Europeans, either sailors or explorers. When the Pilgrims arrived, they found the bones of many of the Patuxet and the remains of their villages.

Map by Champlain of Patuxet Wampanoag Lands in 1605 By 1619 all the Patuxet Wampanoag had died of a plague.



- A. Champlain's Ship
- B. Jones River
- C /E. Clark's Island
- D. Dunes/Saguish
- F. Wigwams/fields
- G. Canoe
- H. Gurnet
- I. Manomet



## **Box Project Thank you**



Dear Carrie & friends at First Parish "16/23"
On behalf of the staff and families of South Shore Early Education in Plymonth we want to thank you so much for the ongoing monthly food assistance and all the wonderful Christmas gifts for 5 of our families. Your continued support is quatly appreciated, we wish you all a Blessed, Healthy, Happy New Year.

Sciencely

Elaine Maddle

Jamily Advocate



#### (Continued from page 1)

#### FRIDAY FEB. 10

Knitting 2:00pm

Bay Players Performance 8:00pm - "Silent Sky"

#### **SATURDAY FEB. 11**

Bay Players Performance 8:00pm - "Silent Sky"

#### **SUNDAY FEB 12**

Worship 10:00 a.m.

#### **MONDAY FEB. 13**

Seeing Sacred Class 10:00am

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

**TUESDAY FEB. 14** 

#### HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

#### WEDNESDAY FEB. 15

Bell Choir 5:00pm

#### **THURSDAY FEB. 16**

Book Club 9:00

The Studio Drop-In 9:00-12:00pm Governing Board 7:00pm

#### FRIDAY FEB. 17

Bay Players Performance 8:00pm - "Silent Sky"

#### **SATURDAY FEB. 18**

Shirat Hayam 10:00am

Bay Players Performance 8:00pm - "Silent Sky"

#### **SUNDAY FEB. 19**

#### Worship 10:00 a.m.

Social Justice Mtg. 9:00am

Bay Players Performance 5:00pm - "Silent Sky"

#### **MONDAY FEB. 20**

President's Day - Office Closed

#### **WEDNESDAY FEB. 22**

March Bellringer Due Date

Bell Choir 5:00pm

#### **THURSDAY FEB. 23**

Book Club 9:00am

Small Group 10:30am

The Studio Drop-In 9:00-12:00pm

#### **SATURDAY FEB. 25**

**South Shore Folk Group** 

**SUNDAY FEB. 26** 

Worship 10:00 a.m.

#### **MONDAY FEB 27**

Seeing Sacred Class 10:00am

PFLAG 7:00pm

SSHAGLY 7:00pm



#### **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 FEBRUARY, 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 <a href="mailto:TheRevCatherine@aol.com">TheRevCatherine@aol.com</a>, at her cell number, or by leaving a message at the church.

#### DCLL's Office Hours:

Kate's regular office hours are **Tues.**, **from 11-2pm**, and **Thur. from 1-4 p.m**. Fridays are her days off. She may be contacted by cell at (617) 947-9444. If you need to schedule an appointment during office hours or any time after office hours, please feel free to contact Kate at katesullivan@uudux.org, or her cell number.

#### **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 <a href="mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net">uuduxbury@verizon.net</a> 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 (1st & 3rd Sun. each month)

Silent Joys & Concerns (4<sup>th</sup> Sun. each month)

Membership 9:00a.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. each month)

Cell Program (9:00a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. each month)

Social Justice 9:00a.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. each month

#### **MONDAYS** -

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

#### **TUESDAYS -**

Communications 7:00p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> 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. (4<sup>th</sup> Sat. each month)





# COFFEE HR HOSTING IS ROTATED BY MEMBERS/FRIEND'S LAST NAMES!

When it's your turn, please bring food to share and arrive @ 9:15AM to set up and help host!

Coffee is made by our sexton and sides are always stocked. After coffee hr, dishes are completed by our sexton.

Instructions are on-line: <a href="https://uudux.org/first-parish-church-documents-and-forms/">https://uudux.org/first-parish-church-documents-and-forms/</a>

Jan 29: QRS - please set up in the parlor this week!

Feb 5: T - Z

Feb 12: As and Bs

Feb 19: C

<u>Feb 26:</u> D E F

<u>Mar 5:</u> G H I J





The Website Is Up and Running for our Service Auction!

Get ready to start bidding. The Service Auction has begun! Here's the link: <a href="https://www.32auctions.com/uudux2023">https://www.32auctions.com/uudux2023</a>

More items will be added as they come in so keep checking back.

Our Service Auction and Dinner will take place on Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> and will kick off with a hors d'oeuvres at 5 pm. This wonderful church event is a fun evening with an amazing gourmet meal prepared by our renowned First Parish Church chefs, led by the incomparable Ian Campbell and Ted Lillys. Dinner is followed by marvelous desserts supplied by our celebrated First Parish Church bakers. After dinner we will auction off services, vacation stays, dinners, adventures, and many more items, all donated by First Parish Church members and friends. We'll also childcare and fun activities downstairs for the kids to make it easy for all to participate.

You can get your tickets now. The price is \$20 per person. You can get tickets after church at coffee hour or you can reserve them by calling Lenore in the office at 781-934-6532 or by contacting Sharon Nabreski, <a href="mailto:snabreski@me.com">snabreski@me.com</a>. Seating is limited so don't dawdle. Tickets have sold out in the past.

And of course we need your donations of fabulous service ideas for the auction. Do you have a skill or service that you would like to offer in the auction? We'll have hard-copy forms at coffee hour. You can also send your ideas directly to me, Jim Hamilton (<a href="mailto:jim@greenharbor.com">jim@greenharbor.com</a>). I'll need the following information:

- Your contact information
- The name of the service
- A short description
- A minimum bid (or value)
- Any specified time for the delivery of the service
- If this service can be offered multiple times, name the number of times

If you had a similar item in last year's service auction, let me know and it can be easily duplicated.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 4th!



## ALLIANCE 1890 - 2023 WHERE SHALL WE GO?

In what direction should the First Parish Alliance go forward?

Alliance has been a big part of First Parish for many years and we would like to keep making it a part of our vibrant church. In order to do this we need to transition to a somewhat different model. We hope transitioning in a new direction will bring forward both new ideas and members.

Here is a pre-pandemic list of projects your Alliance has done recently.

- . One day a week we met as a sewing group, and, while it was a small group, the items produced were sellouts at First Parish summer and winter fairs.
- . The Alliance staffed and hosted many collations for a suggested fee or donation, provided wonderful memorial luncheons and, in so doing provided great comfort to family members.
  - . Once each year the Alliance led a Sunday worship service.
- . We also make donations to local charities each year.
- . A few times a year the Alliance has held special events.
- . Through the years it has donated money for many special projects which First Parish needed, such as recently providing funds to redecorate the parlor.

Now we would appreciate input from church members on how to go forward.

In the past Alliance membership has been women for the most part. We also welcome more men to be part of this group.

The Alliance will welcome new ideas, directions or suggestions from church members relative to moving the Alliance forward. Please help us with your suggestions.

Drop your suggestions off in the Alliance box in the church office or call Bev Johnson or Mary Donovan.





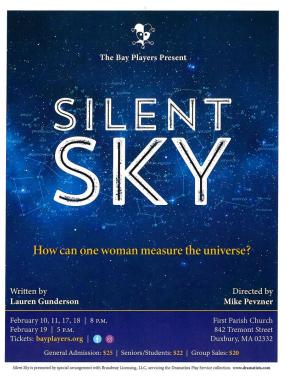
<u>Cedar Hill Retreat Presents</u> "Living with Sharks" with Dr. Greg Skomal

Mark your calendars! Cedar Hill Retreat Center of Duxbury, MA is pleased to announce that Dr Greg Skomal will speak on "Living with Sharks," Friday March 10, 2023, from 7-9 PM, at First Parish Church Duxbury, 842 Tremont Street (Rt. 3a). He will also be available immediately following his presentation to autograph his books, The Shark Handbook (\$20.00), which will be available for purchase onsite.

Dr. Skomal is an accomplished marine biologist, underwater explorer, filmmaker, photographer, and author. He has been a fisheries scientist with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries since 1987, and currently heads up the Massachusetts Shark Research Program.

Greg has been an avid SCUBA diver and underwater photographer since 1978. He has written dozens of scientific research papers and has appeared in a number of film and television documentaries, including programs for National Geographic, Discovery Channel, BBC, and numerous television networks. His most recent book, The Shark Handbook, is a must buy for all shark enthusiasts. He is a Boston Sea Rover and a member of The Explorers Club; his home and laboratory are on the south coast of Massachusetts.

Tickets go on sale online February 1, 2023, for \$25.00 per person. All proceeds will benefit the Cedar Hill Retreat Center. For tickets and more information about our speaker, go to the Cedar Hill Event page <a href="http://cedarhillcenter.org/cedar-hill-events.aspx">http://cedarhillcenter.org/cedar-hill-events.aspx</a> Some tickets will be available at the door.



Bay Players Next Production at FPC! -- "Silent Sky" February 10, 11, 17, 18 & 19 -- Tickets: https://bayplayers.org/



South Shore Folk Music Club -- February 25<sup>th</sup> at FPC! "Tall Hi-Fi" -- Tall Richard and Peter Hi-Fi Ward

Playing a combination of original music and covers covering a wide spectrum of Blues and Country. Both Tall and Peter are longtime veterans of the New England music scene and have worked with some of the very best musicians in the area. In addition, Peter is a veteran of The Legendary Blues Band and has traveled all over the United States. Locally he has worked with Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson and Sugar Ray Norcia and many others.

Tall Richard has worked with Bo Diddley and Duke Robillard and various other top names. For this show they come together as a force to be reckoned with. They will tell road stories and perform songs from their original catalogs as well as their favorite cover songs of artists they admire.

This is a one night only event at First Parish Church Duxbury and is proudly presented by South Shore Folk Music Club (SSFMC). Tickets are \$18.00. Doors open at 630 pm, Show 7:00 to 9:15 pm. Refreshments available. See you there!!!