

# The Bell-Ringer

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

 MARCH 2023 

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

THEME FOR MARCH IS **"VULNERABILITY"**.

March 5th -- **"Will You Give Me Shelter?"** -- As we celebrate our Annual Welcoming Congregation Sunday, Catherine will be joined by Al Green, Director of LGBT Asylum Task Force in Worcester (**SHARE THE PLATE with LGBT Asylum Task Force**)

March 12th -- **"The Spiritual Wisdom of James Taylor"** -- Catherine will be joined by guitarist Peter Eldridge as we celebrate one of the most prolific singer-songwriters and his revealing music. (STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL) (AFTER CHURCH LUNCH & DISCUSSION IN PROPOSED CHANGES TO UUA PRINCIPLES & PURPOSES)

March 19<sup>th</sup> -- **"We've Got A Good Thing Going"**-- Our **Annual Pledge Sunday** will include our youth, the Soul Singers, --- **AND A FABULOUS LASAGNA LUNCHEON!**

March 26<sup>th</sup> -- Worship/Music Committee will provide a speaker/minister for this Sunday.



## COMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 1

Bells 5:00pm

### THURSDAY MARCH 2

Book Club 9:00am

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

Worship/Music 7:00pm

### FRIDAY MARCH 3

Purim Costume Party & Square

Dance - Dinner 5:00pm

### SATURDAY MARCH 4

Shirat Hayam 10:00-11:30am

### SUNDAY MARCH 5

Worship 10:00am

Cell Program 9:00am

OWL 4:00-6:30pm

### MONDAY MARCH 6

Seeing Sacred Class 10:00am

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 8

Small Group 9:30-11:00

Bells 5:00pm

### THURSDAY MARCH 9

Book Club 9:00am

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

Small Group 10:30am

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...



*"You are not alone in the universe.  
You come here alone,  
and you leave here alone.  
But in between,  
you are not alone."*

- Bill Russell (The sole owner of NBA #6)

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## *First Parish Church*

*Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts*

P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A)

Email: [uuduxbury@verizon.net](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net)

Telephone: 781-934-6532

Website: [www.duxburyuu.org](http://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**

Dear Friends,

As I move closer to the end of my career in parish ministry (I plan to continue with chaplaincy, but doubt I will ever serve a parish again!), I've been thinking about what it was that called me to parish ministry over twenty years ago...The answer that comes to me is clear: **for me it's been all about building Beloved Community...**

***March is "Pledge Month" and we each pledge our time, treasure and talents to keep this amazing Beloved Community at FPC alive and thriving.***

Being part of a Beloved Community, a term coined by Martin Luther King Jr., can have many benefits. Here are some of them:

***Sense of Belonging:*** Being part of our Beloved Community gives you a sense of belonging, a feeling of being connected to something larger than yourself.

***Support Network:*** One of the things we do *best* here at FPC is to take good care of each other, providing support in times of need.

***Shared Goals and Values:*** Our Beloved Community shares values, purpose and goals, such as working towards social justice, environmental sustainability, or spiritual growth. Working towards these goals with others who share similar values can provide a sense of meaning and purpose, and a sense of accomplishment when progress is made.

***Personal Growth:*** Being part of a Beloved Community can provide opportunities for personal growth and development. *We may be challenged to step out of their comfort zones, learn new skills, or take on leadership roles. This can lead to increased self-confidence, self-awareness, and a sense of achievement.*

My spiritual friends, the community you find here at First Parish Church is like any other "community" you will know in your life. Family, friends and neighbors are important in our lives, *but belonging to a Beloved Community is special as we all share in such a gift!*

***Catherine***

# Governing Board

## GOVERNING BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This month, after meetings and conversation with the congregation, the Governing Board made the decision to extend our hospitality to the Afghan family who are residing in our parsonage to stay until June 30, 2024. It had become apparent that the family, who came to us with no English and illiterate in their own language, were just not ready for more independence. The Duxbury Afghan Refugee Initiative (DARI) will be working very hard with the family over the next 15 months to help them become ready for an independent life here in the US. My greatest thanks to Meredith Lehman and Kathy Bray for their continued weekly work with the family and to all the First Parish folks who continue to work with them. They still have so many needs and if there is anyone who is interested in joining in the fun - babysitting, rides, etc please contact me. I also want to thank DARI for their donation next year of \$12,000 to help defray the costs of the parsonage. An additional \$12,000 will likely come from our cell program reserve fund.

In other very important news, the Governing Board voted last week in favor of a two year interim ministry as suggested by Rev Keith Kron of the UUA. We are excited about the prospect and about the congregation's role in continuing to make our church a welcoming and engaging place to be. We appointed an interim search committee consisting of Regina Mortland, Donna Savicki, Ted Lillys, Emily Simeone, and Lily Leedom. They will begin their work soon and we should know who our interim will be by the end of May (maybe before!)

We are planning an after church informational session on MARCH 12 - with a light lunch and childcare - to discuss the UUA article 2 initiative which is the article re-writing our principles and purposes. This is really important business for us. If you want to attend and you want child care, please let me know.

You will have the opportunity to vote on Article 2 at General Assembly if you want to go. This is an EXCELLENT experience in person. This year GA is in Pittsburgh - easily accessible by train or plane. The church will pay your \$500 registration fee. We have 6 delegate slots. There is also the possibility of attending virtually (registration would still be paid) and you would still have the opportunity of voting. I have gone virtually the last two years and it is ok, but nothing compared to being there in person and joining in with thousands of other UU's in singing. It would be wonderful to fill all 6 delegate slots for voting on this and other important issues to our denomination.

Tracy Wagner and I met with the Finance Group again and have been discussing such matters as the pledge drive, how we are going to cover our budget deficit, defraying cost of parsonage, reforming the finance "groups" into a Finance Group. We are taking a look at our budget and seeing where we can cut costs so we don't continue to go forward with deficit budgets.

We re-formed our By-Laws Committee to look at a couple of issues surrounding committees. Thank you to Bob Clark, Jeanne McKinney, Amy Hamilton and Jim Hamilton.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, etc please contact me.

**In faith - Cindy Ladd Fiorini**





This month our theme centers on **VULNERABILITY** – that dreadful feeling we all get when *we perceive ourselves to be susceptible to emotional or physical harm. Some think that being vulnerable is a sign of weakness, but* Brené Brown, a prominent researcher who has spent a decade studying vulnerability, says that it is the birthplace of everything—of innovation, creativity, and change, and argues that your greatest moments were likely born from your bravest vulnerability. So being vulnerable has a silver lining – and this insight will frame our work with the kids throughout the coming month.

In RE we will explore the challenges and paths of **VULNERABILITY**. Each path includes an exploration of a moment of vulnerability. Our aim is to explore four key moments when life asks us all, especially our kids, to risk being vulnerable to gain something important, e.g., a friend, help, faith, and self-worth. Each path includes a statement that expresses how we are being asked to be vulnerable. We'll explore these key moments with a lesson a week outlined below.

Week 1: When We Seek Friendship (On the ability to say, “I like you.”)    Week 2: When We Can’t Do It On Our Own (On the ability to say “I need help.”)    Week 3: When We Hope (On the ability to say “I trust it will happen.”)    Week 4: When We Show Our True Selves (On the ability to say “This is me.”)

With the younger kids we’ll be introducing vulnerability as a “leap of faith”, and we’ll be using a stuffed frog to anchor our explorations of what it means to be vulnerable. We are hoping that kids will find that using the frog as a tangible “leaper” will help them connect with this complex theme.



We are kicking off the month with an amazing multigenerational event, our Purim Costume Party and Square Dance! So, what is Purim? It is a Jewish [festival commemorating](#) the survival of the Jews who, in the 5th century BCE, were marked for death by their Persian rulers. The story is related in the [biblical Book of Esther](#) and its main theme is about triumphing over adversity. Along with our friends from Shirat Hayam, we’re hosting a FUN FRIDAY event with a wonderful FREE meal, activities, prizes for best costume and a square dance party! Hope to see you on **FRIDAY, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5–7pm**. Fun for the whole family

Register below:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejn72kaofbdd3609&oseq=&c=&h=>

We are so excited to be offering OWL for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders for FPC kids as well as those in the broader community. We begin on Feb 26<sup>th</sup> with meetings for the parents and children and then our fantastic facilitators, Tracy Wagner & David Murphy, will be meeting with the kids every Sunday evening until May. THANK YOU, Tracy and David, for your commitment to the families and kids of First Parish, and to delivering this much needed Ministry to our community!



I'll leave you with one my favorite poet's thoughts on vulnerability.

*Peace & Blessings, Kate*

It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work,  
and that when we no longer know which way to go we have come to our real journey.  
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.  
The impeded stream is the one that sings.  
~ Wendell Berry





Join the Stewardship Team on **March 19<sup>th</sup>** after service for a celebratory lasagna lunch! If you haven't heard, it is pledge season! A pledge is simply a written promise to donate a certain amount of money over the course of the year. Our annual budget depends on the generosity of our members and friends!

There are three easy ways to pledge-you choose!

**On our website:** <https://uudux.org/pledge-3/>

**Mail:** You should receive a pledge letter in the mail with a return envelope.

**In Person:** pledge cards and the stewardship team will be available to take your pledge on March 19<sup>th</sup>

If you need a reminder about what you pledged last year, please contact Amy Hamilton at [thehamiltonfamily@verizon.net](mailto:thehamiltonfamily@verizon.net) .

As always if you would like to speak with someone about pledging we would love to be helpful! Reach out to anyone below.

Thank you for your support!

**Mary Flanagan, Pat Slechta, Lynn Marples and Tracy Wagner**



## ***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.*



### **SHARE THE PLATE**

### **LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE**

We are pleased to have as our **March 5th Share the Plate recipient**, the **LGBT Asylum Task Force**, a church ministry out of Worcester, MA. They were formed in 2008 to welcome LGBT asylum seekers of all faiths, as they arrive in the US.

It is the Task Force's mission to provide comprehensive support for the 2 year period when they are prohibited from working. This includes housing, food, and connections to legal, medical and mental health resources at other local agencies.

In the last year, there has been a 50% growth in clients in Task Force housing, thus a greater need for both human and financial resources. Your support will help put our UU principles into action. This program was nominated by Cindy Wilson.

If you are aware of a nonprofit organization whose mission aligns with our UU principles, and provides direct support to their clients, they may be eligible for a Share the Plate collection. If you have any questions, you can contact Eleanor McGonagle at [eleanor9785@gmail.com](mailto:eleanor9785@gmail.com). Application forms are available online at the FPC website or from Lenore in the office.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



## 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/1aRoaqecyIlg9red1JCipI06Nl0L\\_I17H8vtxxedKXek/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aRoaqecyIlg9red1JCipI06Nl0L_I17H8vtxxedKXek/edit?usp=sharing)



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**FRIDAY MARCH 10**

Knitting 2:00pm

**CEDAR HILL RETREAT CENTER -**

- Living with Sharks

7:00-9:00pm

**SATURDAY MARCH 11**

South Shore Folk Group

Ballad Contest - 7:00pm

**SUNDAY MARCH 12**

Worship 10:00am

OWL 4:00-6:30pm

**MONDAY MARCH 13**

Seeing Sacred Class 10:00am

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 15**

Bells 5:00pm

**THURSDAY MARCH 16**

Book Club 9:00am

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

Governing Board 7:00pm

**FRIDAY MARCH 17**

St. Patrick's Day 🍀

**SUNDAY MARCH 19**

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

Worship 10:00am

Social Justice 9:00am

OWL 4:00-6:30pm

**MONDAY MARCH 20**

First Day of Spring! 🌸

Seeing Sacred Class 10:00am

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 22**

Small Group 9:30-11:00am

Bells 5:00pm

**THURSDAY MARCH 23**

Book Club 9:00am

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

**FRIDAY MARCH 24**

**APRIL BELL RINGER DUE DATE!**

**SATURDAY MARCH 25**

Shirat Hayam 10:00am

South Shore Folk Group

Open Mic - 7:00pm

**SUNDAY MARCH 26**

Worship 10:00 a.m.

OWL 4:00-6:30pm

**MONDAY MARCH 27**

Seeing Sacred Class 10:00am

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

PFLAG 7:00pm

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 29**

Bells 5:00p.m.

**THURSDAY MARCH 30**

Book Club 9:00am

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

**FRIDAY MARCH 31**

South Shore Folk Group 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 months of **MARCH**, please contact **KATHY BRAY**, [kbray8832@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:TheRevCatherine@aol.com), 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](mailto: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 [uuduxbury@verizon.net](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net) if you need anything.



**April Bell-Ringer Deadline**  
**Thursday, March 24th**

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 –**

Scared Seeing Photography Class 9:00-12:00pm

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. (1<sup>st</sup> Wed. each month)

**THURSDAYS –**

Book Group 9:00 a.m.

FPC Artworks Drop in 9:00-12:00pm

Worship/Music Committee 7:00 p.m.

(1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. each month)

Governing Board 7 p.m.

(3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. each month)

**FRIDAYS –**

Committee on Ministry

5 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Fri. each month)

**SATURDAYS –**

Community Table

9:15 a.m. (4<sup>th</sup> Sat. each month)



# SAVE THE DATE!



## Summer Fair 2023

### Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>!!!

The success of this event depends on volunteerism, not just on the day, but in the weeks leading up to the fair. It is a fun way to get to know fellow church members and the broader community. We hope that you will consider helping out this year-we need you!!

Secondly, we need stuff to sell!

We hope you have been saving your treasures. As spring approaches, we will have more information to share.

Cedar Hill Retreat Center  
Presents

# Living with Sharks

with Dr. Greg Skomal



Dr. Greg Skomal, our speaker is an accomplished marine biologist, photographer, and author. He is a frequent guest on National Geographic, Discovery, & PBS. He heads the Mass Shark Research Program for Div of Marine Fisheries.



**SCAN ME**

**MARCH 10 | 7-9 PM**  
First Parish UU Church  
826 Tremont Street  
Duxbury, Ma

**TICKETS: \$25**  
All proceeds to benefit the  
Cedar Hill Retreat Center

Book Sale & Signing by speaker to follow program  
**More Info at [cedarhillcenter.org](http://cedarhillcenter.org)**

**Cedar Hill Retreat Presents**  
**“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 are on sale 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 [http://cedarhillcenter.org/cedar\\_hill\\_events.aspx](http://cedarhillcenter.org/cedar_hill_events.aspx) Some tickets will be available at the door.

**SOUTH SHORE FOLK MUSIC CLUB at First Parish Duxbury**

**March at the Club – LIVE SHOWS!**

**SATURDAY, Mar 11, 7PM – Traditional Ballad Singing Contest**

**Grade 4 thru age 25 – CASH PRIZES AND AWARDS!**

**Sign up by March 4, all info at [ssfmc.org](http://ssfmc.org)**



**\$9 Members, \$10 Non-Members, \$5 Kids**

**SATURDAY, March 25, 7PM – Coffeehouse and Open Mic**



**Featuring “Sparrow Blue”**

**Sign up for Open Mic at the door**

**\$9 Members**

**\$10 Non-Members**

**\$5 Kids**

**FRIDAY, March 31, 7PM All Ages Open Mic**

**Mini-feature: Lisa Sheldon**

**Sign up for Open Mic at the door.**

**\$8 Everybody!**



**Vaccination and Masks recommended**

**Snacks for sale! Lots of music! Folk Friends!**

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

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

