

The Bell-Ringer

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



FEBRUARY 2025



OUR ALL-CHURCH THEME THIS MONTH IS "INCLUSION".

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 2 – "So Glad You Are" – Rev. Susan Milnor – Our monthly Soul Matters theme is inclusion, and it's something we as Unitarian Universalists strive for. Just now, though, there is movement toward exclusion in our wider culture. What's at work in these two different human impulses? Is inclusion an end in itself, or do we seek inclusion toward a greater goal? And how do we include and still embody our particular values? ***Please note that following today's worship, there will be a New UU session to explore what it means to be included in this Unitarian Universalist faith and congregation.***

February 9 – "What Happens at the Tree" – Rev. Susan Milnor – With the approach of Valentine's Day, people can feel lonely or excluded from an admittedly minor holiday but a major cultural focus. Let's consider a kind of love that can include everyone, an ethic from an African culture that shapes the world of relation for children who learn it and which literally creates the conditions for greater health of body and spirit.

February 16- Rev. Susan Milnor (Topic TBA)

February 23 – Music Sunday – Our musical guest this Sunday is Ron Williams, who has brought his gifts to First Parish in recent years on Mother's Day. Ron will present a rich selection of musical pieces in a service of music, readings, and our usual rituals.

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY FEB. 1

Bay Players Performance
"The Coast Starlight" – 8:00pm

SUNDAY FEB 2

Worship 10:00 a.m.
Membership & Engagement
After Church

Cell Program Mtg. 11:45

Bay Players Performance
"The Coast Starlight" – 3:00pm

WEDNESDAY FEB. 5

Rare Woman 10:00am
The New Yorker Group 10:00am
Bell Chor 5:00pm

THURSDAY FEB. 6

Book Group 9:30am
Worship/Music – 7:00pm Zoom

♥HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY♥

(Continued on page 9)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER...

Some of the most purely joyful moments in my childhood came when I rode the waves with my father. After my grandparents moved from Tennessee to Tampa, Florida, we used free passes my father earned as a brakeman for Southern Railways to take the train to Florida, usually in the heat of summer. During a visit we would end up at Clearwater Beach, and my father would take me out to hit the waves.

I don't know how, or even whether, he taught me to quit fighting the water and instead to let it hold up me. It's a body and mind lesson I think about often these days. In such tense and demanding times, how do we let the world hold us instead of fighting to stay up? I don't know. There are things we must fight, energy and courage we must exert. Somehow in the process, though, we need to let ourselves ride the moments of beauty and solidarity and companionship that keep our heads above water.

One thing is for sure. I would never have gone out into the ocean by myself. We need each other to stay afloat. We need to be each other's lifeguards. We need to be together.

Blessings,
Rev. Susan

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. Susan Milnor, Interim Minister
Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator
Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director Emerita
Missy Schortmann, RE Administrator

Edwin Swanborn, Music Director
Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, Minister, Emerita
Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education



We cordially invite you...

to join us on Sunday, February 2nd
 after church for our 2025 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 each other.

Our interim minister, Reverend Susan Milnor
 will lead the program and
 will be joined by several seasoned members
 who will share what belonging
 to First Parish means to them.

We will be serving a wonderful lunch,
 and childcare is available.

We hope you will join us!

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Title: Pronouns and Me
Facilitator: Rev. Susan Milnor
Date: February 18
Time: 7:00-8:30 pm
Format: Zoom

With greater awareness of gender diversity has come the need to understand some of the relevant terms and factors. Do you understand the difference between “sex” and “gender”? Are you able to use terms like “queer” and “transgender” and “nonbinary” with understanding and sensitivity? Why do we need to provide our pronouns, and should you ask for other people’s? This is a session for those who want to further their understanding and comfort with these realities as they welcome and interact with others.

Please indicate your desire to attend by contacting Rev Susan at milnorsusan@gmail.com. She will send a Zoom link closer to the time of the session.

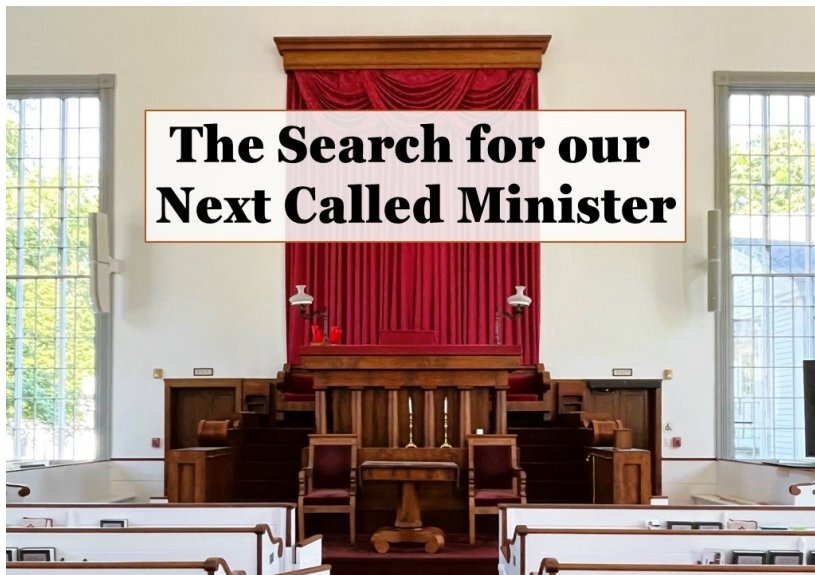
Title: Resistance Here and Now
Facilitator: Rev. Susan Milnor
Date: February 26
Time: 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Format: Zoom
To register: Email milnorsusan@gmail.com

Last year several of us read and discussed historian Timothy Snyder’s short but powerful book *On Tyranny* with his twenty suggestions on how to resist authoritarianism. Let’s discuss now how we might apply those suggestions now, next week, and next year. You do not need to have participated in last year’s session to join this one, but it would be helpful to have read it. If you cannot read the whole book, please review the linked summary to Snyder’s ways of resisting, which he recently included in his Substack blog. <https://snyder.substack.com/p/on-tyranny>

Snyder is a Yale historian with a particular understanding of authoritarianism.

The Zoom link will be sent out closer to the time of the session.





A Winter Update from Your Ministerial Search Committee

January was a very busy month for your Ministerial Search committee! On January 2nd, the UUA began releasing to us (confidentially) the names of the ministers who are interested in applying to be our next settled minister. We received a healthy number of applicants (nine in all) and ended up Zoom interviewing six of them. The quality of the candidates is excellent and we had our work cut out for us to winnow that number down to the three ministers who we have invited to come to Duxbury to meet with the Ministerial Search committee.

Each “pre-candidate” will visit Duxbury on a weekend in February or March that fits their schedule. As we meet with them individually, we will get to know these ministers and will show them around the church and the community. You won’t meet them at that time but after these extensive in-person interviews, the Ministerial Search committee will invite one of the three pre-candidates to be our final candidate. Assuming that this person accepts our offer, this minister will come to First Parish for what is known as Candidating Week, which will happen at the end of April/beginning of May. Please be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday April 27th and Sunday May 4th. The candidate will preach those two Sundays, and during that week will spend time with committees and staff, meet members and friends, and explore the area. At the end of that week, church members will vote on whether to offer that candidate the position. If it is a strong vote in favor, then the candidate will decide whether to accept the call to be our next settled minister.

And in case you missed it, we now have a great video tour describing the church and its place in the town. It’s on the church’s YouTube channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_GCq4M1Afs

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Your Ministerial Search Committee,

Jim Hamilton, Alexa Howell, Jerry Larke, Carol Robison, Donna Savicki, PJ Simeone, Pat Slechta



First Parish RE for February

RE will be working on our theme of the month; Inclusion!

We will be exploring the UU commitment to living our faith and connecting to our UUA's new core value of love. We will help our children to explore this month's theme as a way to embody our faith and love in our daily lives.

We will be covering the following topics over the month of February;

The Practice of Not Leaving People Out

The Practice of Not Leaving Stories Out

The Practice of Not Leaving Love for Ourselves Out

The Practice of Not Leaving Religion Out

We typically begin our time together on Sunday's in the Sanctuary (upstairs), and then go downstairs. Our babies and preschools head to childcare. Our older children go to the children's chapel where we introduce our topic, and light our children's chalice. We then share Joys and Concerns, extinguish our chalice and head to our classroom to delve deeper into our topic through a story, a project or a discussion.

After church, the children head upstairs to join our adults in the Harvey Hall for coffee hour.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please feel free to reach out via text, email or a phone call!

**Be well-
Missy**

Missy Schortmann Sorrenti M.Ed., CAGS
RE Administrator, First Parish Church, Duxbury
781-724-7991
missy@uudux.org

Upcoming Events

- **RE Committee meeting Thursday February 6 at 7:00pm (Virtual)**
- **Fun Friday:** Friday 02/28 at 5:30 pm: Owl Walk!
- Fun Fridays are always multi-generational events, all are welcome! **Please RSVP by Text to Missy at 781-724-7991 (in advance if possible) so we can plan.**





Ring Out Justice!

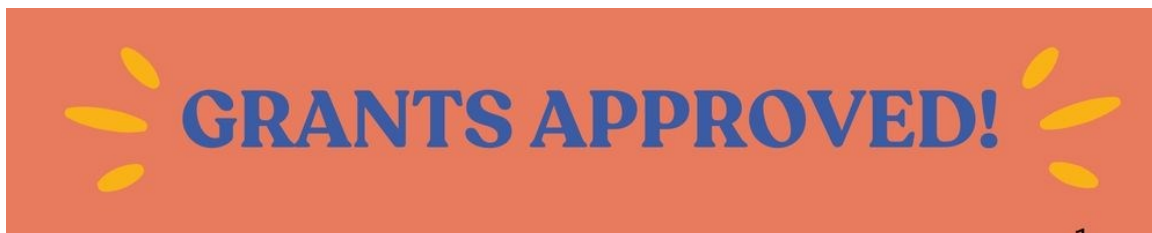


News of Social Justice Activities at First Parish Church

A wise spiritual community must serve something larger than itself. If people gather in community primarily to alleviate their own isolation and loneliness, to have their needs fulfilled by others, they become like a group of children and the community inevitably fails. But if their vision and creativity is in service to the sacred, to the larger common good, there is a better chance for a healthy and wise community to grow.

- Jack Kornfield

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 at the church the third Sunday of the month.



The Cell Program Grant Committee is delighted to announce the following grants!

1. Enrichment Grant: \$2500 to RE for Fun Fridays, % Missy Shortmann Sorrenti .

Social Justice Grants Awarded to:

2. UU Mass Action: \$2000. This state organization promotes, organizes, and mobilizes Unitarian Universalists in Massachusetts for state legislation that promotes UU values and focus for housing justice, climate legislation, criminal justice reform, and to eliminate oppression and injustice. Donna Savicki, applicant.
3. MA Center for Native American Awareness: \$2000. For the scholarship fund for low income indigenous students who are accepted in under graduate programs. The fund provides educational resources, culturally-sensitive mentoring and career development advice to help future leaders in the Native Community. Carrie Meier, applicant.
4. Three local food banks for a total of \$2100: a. \$700. Pembroke Firehouse Pantry, b. \$700. Marshfield Food Pantry, c \$700. Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless. Sally Delisa, applicant.
5. LGBT Asylum Task Force: \$2000. Task Force provides Asylum to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered immigrants fleeing violence, prison and death: Group gives food, shelter, pro bono attorneys, healthcare, mental health support, a small monthly stipend and help with opening bank accounts.



Social Justice at First Parish is happy to link you all to opportunities to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

Stop by the Social Justice Table at Coffee Hour to learn more.

Who Gives a Crap -- Duxbury



"The average American uses an astounding 141 rolls of toilet paper a year," according to the New York Times. Why not buy TP made from 100% recycled paper rather than virgin forests?

The SAC is asking you to place your order as soon as possible. We must prepay for this shipment, so everyone will be asked to make payment before our order is submitted.

Our discounted wholesale prices (including shipping) from Who Gives a Crap are as follows:

Recycled Paper Toilet Paper

\$29.50 for 24 rolls (half box)

\$59.00 for 48 rolls (full box)

Bamboo Toilet Paper

\$32.00 for 24 rolls (half box)

\$64.00 for 48 rolls (full box)

Recycled Facial Tissue

\$18.00 for 12 square boxes

Email socialactionfpp@gmail.com to get in on the action and let us know what you would like to purchase.

In your e-mail, please include your name, your town, and the items and amounts you are ordering. Then snail mail a check made out to: First Parish Plymouth, 12 Church St., Plymouth, MA 02360. Please put SACT/P in the memo line.

Orders will be delivered to the First Parish offices and will be available for pick-up there.

Prepayment/checks must reach the church office by Sunday, February 16, 2025 so that we can place our order.

Thank you!

Social Justice at First Parish is happy to link you all to opportunities to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

Stop by the Social Justice Table at Coffee Hour to learn more.



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/1aRoaqecylIlg9red1JCipI06NloL_I17H8vtxxedKXek/edit?usp=sharing



(Continued from page 1)

FRIDAY FEB. 7

Bay Players Performance

"The Coast Starlight" – 8:00pm

SATURDAY FEB. 8

Bay Players Performance

"The Coast Starlight" – 8:00pm

SUNDAY FEB 9

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Committee Chair Mtg Cedar Hill

MONDAY FEB. 10

Governing Board Mtg. 7:00pm

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY FEB. 12

The New Yorker Group 10:00am

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY FEB. 13

Book Club 9:30

Small Group 10:30am

FRIDAY FEB. 14

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Knitting 2:00pm

SUNDAY FEB. 16

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Social Justice Mtg. 9:00am

MONDAY FEB. 17

President's Day – Office Closed

TUESDAY FEB. 18

Rev. Susan – Pronouns & Me

Zoom – 7:00-8:30pm

Email Rev. Susan to attend

WEDNESDAY FEB. 19

Rare Woman 10:00am

The New Yorker 10:00am

Bell Choir 5:00pm

THURSDAY FEB. 20

Book Club 9:30am

SATURDAY FEB. 22

South Shore Folk Group – Open

Mic

SUNDAY FEB. 23

Worship 10:00 a.m.

MONDAY FEB. 24

March Bellringer Due Date

PFLAG 7:00pm

SSHAGLY 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY FEB. 26

The New Yorker 10:00am

Bell Choir 5:00pm

Resistance Here and Now –

Rev. Susan – Zoom 7:00pm

THURSDAY FEB. 27

Book Club 9:30am

FRIDAY FEB. 28

RE FUN FRIDAY!



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, **GINA ANGELL** at 781-585-3444, gina444angell@gmail.com

Rev. Susan Milnor's Availability:

Most **Monday** mornings & afternoons (in person, by appointment).

Sunday afternoon (in person, by appointment)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, -- by Zoom

Some other times by appointment as well.



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.



March Bell-Ringer Deadline:

Monday, February 24th.



ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS

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)
 Cell Program (11:30a.m. 1st Sun. each month)
 Social Justice 9:00a.m. (3rd Sun. each month)

MONDAYS -

Staff meeting 9:00 a.m. (weekly)
 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 -

WEDNESDAYS -

Hand Bells 5:00p.m.

THURSDAYS -

Book Group 9:00 a.m.
 Worship/Music Comm. 7:00 p.m. (1st Thurs. each month)
 Governing Board 7:00 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)



COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FEB 2025

FEB 2 G H I J

FEB 9 K L

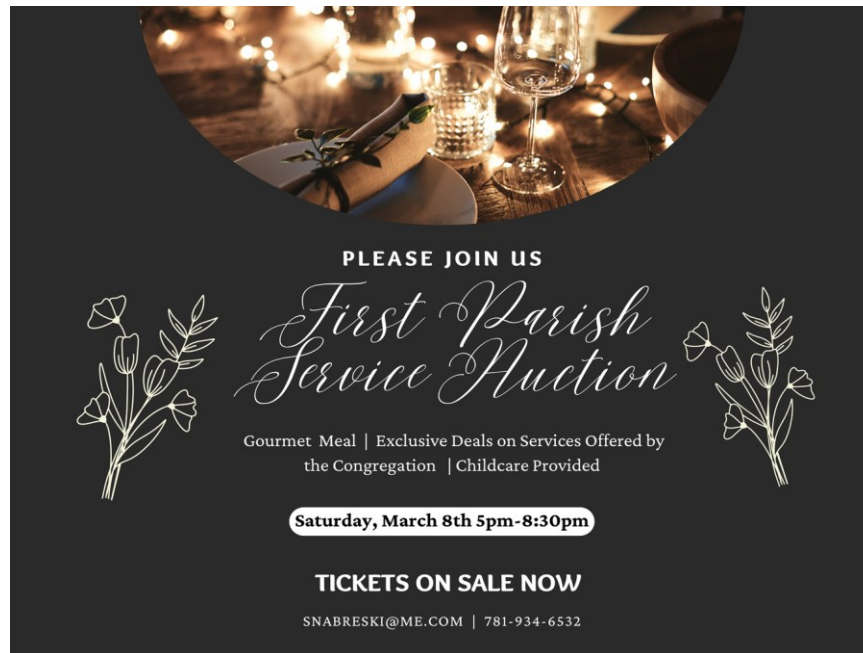
FEB 16 M

FEB 23 N O P

We rotate volunteers for coffee hour by members and friends' last names. When it's your turn, please come to the kitchen @ 9:15AM with food to share and help set up our buffet! There will always be a member of the fellowship committee in the kitchen to help! Also, there are cookies in our cupboard! Feel free to help host coffee hour in the kitchen when it's your turn. Our Sunday sexton helps do the dishes after coffee hour! Please join us!

The schedule is also on our bulletin board and our website!





Mark Your Calendars for the Service Auction: **Saturday, March 8th!**

Our Service Auction and Dinner will take place on Saturday March 8th 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. And as we did in 2023, we will have a virtual component for those folks who wish to participate in the auction, but cannot attend the dinner. Stay tuned! More details coming soon.

You can sign up for tickets now. The price is \$30 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, snabreski@me.com. 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 and will be taking electronic submissions shortly.

We'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

Looking forward to seeing you on the 8th!



Tax Statements are in the mail!

Watch your mail for a summary of your contributions to First Parish during 2024. This statement may be helpful for tax purposes. It includes Share the Plate and the special collection for the Kingston Church last summer in addition to donations toward a pledge or to the general work of the church (non-pledge). Please let us know if you have any questions or did not receive a statement.

Remember that our pledge year is different from the tax year. If you'd like an update on your current pledge, you can ask Amy or Peter. You can also view this information using your account in Breeze, the church database. If you haven't created your account yet, you can get started here: [insert link to PDF that we've used before before].

Thank you for your support of First Parish Church Duxbury!

Amy Hamilton thehamiltonfamily@verizon.net

Peter Nappellio petercarol1966@gmail.com





Safety at First Parish Church has improved!

As you know, we have a new door access system for the Parish Hall church school, office, and Parlor, which enhances our security. The access system will help prevent those doors from being left unlocked, as often happened in the past.

At the end of **February**, we will change the key lock for the rear door to the Office/Parish Hall rear entry. Keys that you may have to that door will **no longer work**. If you do not already have a code to enter that door and you need one, let Lenore know so that she can give you a key fob or a code.

If you have a key to that door, please turn in your key to the office. You may then ask Lenore for a key fob or a key code so that you can enter the rear door.

Thank you for helping with our Church security.

Lester Lloyd



THE COAST STARLIGHT

Written by **KEITH BUNIN** Directed by **JAMES KOONCE**



FRIDAY JAN 31	SATURDAY FEB 1	SUNDAY FEB 2	FRIDAY FEB 7	SATURDAY FEB 8	
8 pm	8 pm	3 pm	8 pm	8 pm	
General admission	\$25	Seniors/Students	\$22	Group sales	\$20

First Parish Hall | 842 Tremont Street, Duxbury MA 02332
TICKETS: 781.269.9885 | bayplayers.org

 **Bay Players**

SPRING at First Parish Duxbury South Shore Folk Music Club

Tickets for most shows may be purchased at website or pay at door 

www.southshorefolkmusicclub.org

Saturday, Feb 22 - All Open Mic - The most authentic live music around!



**ALL
Open Mic**

- * Songs
- * Tunes
- * Spoken word
- * Original or not
- * All genres
- * Not just Folk

No Advance Tickets for this show. Pay at the door-CASH or CHECK (no credit card)
CORRECTED PRICES:
\$6 Members, Open Mics; \$8 Non-members; Kids FREE (under 18)

Fri, March 14 - Coffeehouse featuring Tim Smith followed by Open Mic at First Parish Duxbury
842 Tremont St, 7PM (doors open 6:30)



Open Mic!

- * Songs *Tunes
- * Spoken word
- * Original or not
- Come on down!

Come on down and pay at the door with CASH or CHECK (no CC)

\$8 Members

\$8 Open Mic Performers

\$9 Non-Members

\$4 Kids (under 18)

Tom Smith

SATURDAY, March 29, 2025, 7:00 – 9:15 PM

Traditional Ballad Singing Contest

For Contestants Grade 4 through Age 25



Sing a traditional ballad, and receive a CASH prize or CASH participation award. Solos, groups, with instrument or without.



Contestants: No charge, Members \$9, Non-members \$8, Kids \$4 (under 18)