# **December - Mystery**

I have a friend who speaks of knowledge as an island in a sea of mystery. Let this then, be the ground of my faith: All that we know, now and forever, all scientific knowledge that we have of this world, or ever will have, is as an island in the sea. Still the mystery surrounds us ...Chet Raymo

## January - Possibility

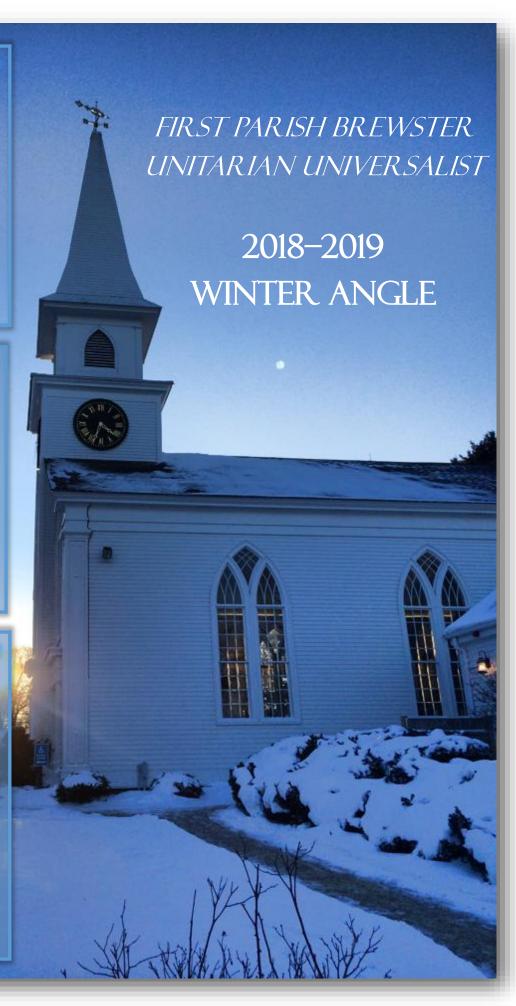
Have you considered the possibility that everything you believe is wrong, not merely off a bit, but totally wrong...How different the world seems then: everyone who was your enemy is your friend, everything you hated, you now love. ...Federico Moramarco

WI

# February - Trust

The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image. If in loving them we do not love what they are, but only their potential likeness to ourselves, then we do not love them: we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them.

...Thomas Merton





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# Holiday Worship Services Sunday, December 9, 2018 @ 9 & 11 am

Music Sunday - Glow: Winter Light

Come celebrate with us on a musical journey of winter light.

Songs and readings of the season with the First Parish

Brewster UU Choir and Ensemble.

### Wednesday, December 12, 2018 @ 6:30 pm Blue Holidays Service

Rev. Jessica Clay Contemplative service for those experiencing grief and loss around the holidays.

# Sunday, December 16, 2018 @ 9 & 11 am Multigenerational NO REHEARSAL Christmas Pageant

Did you ever want the role of Mary in the Christmas pageant, only to be cast as a sheep for the 5th year in a row?

Join us for our annual Christmas Pageant, where we tell the timeless story of the birth of Jesus, with you as the cast, and music by our Organic Music Group.

# Sunday, December 23, 2018 @ 9 & 11 am Breaking Bread

Worship Leaders Rev Jessica Clay & Rev Tracy Johnson Join us for this communion service where we will break bread together and connect within our wide theological tent.

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Services <u>Sunday, December 24, 2018</u>

**4:30 pm Family Service:** A multigenerational service with carols, candles

**7:00 & 9:00 pm Lessons & Carols:** Traditional Christmas Eve service with FPBUU Choir & Ensemble

11:00 pm Late Night Service: Led by Young Adults

# Sunday, December 30, 2018 10 am only Blessing of a New Year

Worship Leaders Twinks Hastings & Chuck Ross
Join us for our annual Yule Log ritual where we will
contemplate what we are ready to let go of from this past
year, and what we would like to bring into the New Year. We
will give our prayers to the Yule Log and burn it in a sacred
circle on the plaza to close the service.

#### From the Minister

As we head into the holidays, our upcoming themes of mystery, possibility, & trust are present in the air. There is a mystery of holiday magic that can happen when we least expect it, and it can leave us remembering, dreaming, and everything in between. For me the magic happens when the first snowfall comes, when the towns have their tree lighting ceremonies, and when the warmth of another's hand embraces your own after coming in from the cold.

As a new year dawns, I dream of the possibilities before me and all of us. As I drive by the cranberry bogs dusted in ice and snow, I imagine the cranberry buds preparing themselves for what is ahead in the year to come. I trust in the wheel of time that continues to move, I trust that we will be in the full force of winter and it will feel like forever for a moment. During that moment of winter I love to stay inside, make soup, watch a good movie, or read a good book, and hibernate my soul a bit.

In these next three months, my hopes for you are that they are a time

of connection, of possibilities, of warmth, and of soul hibernation if that is what is needed. As always FBPUU will be here, a place for you to rest, remember, and be reminded of your own resilience. During this time of going inward, may you discover new possibilities within you and others you meet.

Rev. Jessica Clay

#### Christmas Eve Collections for the HEED Fund

Over the years it has been our tradition that all the money received from our Christmas Eve collections goes directly to the HEED Fund, which provides assistance for those who are in need. In the past the HEED Fund has provided thousands of dollars to help with food, fuel, rent, transportation and medical bills. This aid is not just for church members, but is available for the larger community.



#### **Christmas Eve Warmth Drive**

The Mitten Tree is a tradition at many Unitarian Universalist Congregations. It's a chance for children, youth and adults to express their love and care for others through giving gifts. For the whole month of December there will be a tree and people are invited to hang (new) scarves, hats, mittens and gloves on the tree. These will be donated to the Lower Cape Outreach Council for people who are in need of warmth and care in our extended community.

#### From the Office

I am pleased to announce our new website, **fpbuu.org.** It comes as no surprise that an online presence is essential these days, and our website is a common way people get information about First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist. Our home page now clearly shows the upcoming services, links for visitors, events and happenings, announcements and most importantly a prominent search box. There are quick links along the upper right corner for directions and parking, to donate or contacting us.

The main menu along the top is similar to the old navigation with a few additions. We now have a tab called *News and Calendar* which includes an electronic form that you can use to submit announcements and events for our weekly Angle. It's so easy! Another great new feature is you can quickly find the recent announcements without searching through your email by simply going to *Announcements* under the *News and Calendar* tab as well. You can still find the full calendar here as well, but I encourage you to check out the *Events* page, which lists all the church events we don't want you to miss. You can still find the online Member Directory access (with all the great features of Breeze you have come to love!) under the Connections tab.



I hope you take a stroll through the pages and let me know what you like and if there's something you can't find. A good website is alive and ever changing, and there are many more additions I already have in mind for the coming months. Thank you to my editorial team and everyone who answered my request for last minute updates! May First Parish Brewster continue to shine bright.

Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director



### <u>Deadline Reminder</u> FPBUU Quarterly Angle

Spring Issue (March, April, May)
Submissions Due - February 1st
cove@firstparishbrewster.org

FPBUU Weekly Angle
Due Wednesday by 12 noon
weekly@firstparishbrewster.org

Submissions for a Facebook Page karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org

Updates for the FPBUU website karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org

A special thank you to all who helped make our **Photos with Santa Holiday Fair** a wonderful event. This was possible because you said YES and jumped in with enthusiasm, and how beautiful it was to be together with a joyful spirit. My heart is truly opened, and my soul is feed.

#### **FPBUU Council for 2018-19**

Gail Webb (Chair)
Carol Ann Yeaple (Chair-elect)
Topper Roth (Past Chair)
Rikki Bates
Pat Skinger
Susan Smith
Bill Roberts

# WOMEN'S CIRCLE ALLIANCE - 2018-2019 WINTER PROGRAM

Brighten your winter Wednesday afternoons by attending the Women's Circle Alliance programs:

wednesday, december 12th: Today a very special holiday treat is offered in the FPB church sanctuary as Joan Kirschner, renowned organist, plays magnificent music of the holiday season on FPB's old and beautiful organ.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9th: The first meeting of the new year, entitled, "I Lift My Lamp...Immigration Issues in the Era of Trump," will be presented by Mark Gabriele, Chairman of the Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities. He will bring us up to date on the struggle to find just and humane immigration policies in our country and our state.

Caciium, an established artist on Cape Cod, as well as a classically trained violist, will present a program with the intriguing title – "Paint a Symphony, Play a Picture". As live music is played, the artist will paint a picture and describe how music and art come together for her – and perhaps for you as well. All are invited to join the Women's Circle Alliance 1 pm in the Parish Room for refreshments and conversation before the program begins at 1:30 pm.

#### From the Council

#### Improving Communication is a BREEZE at FPBUU!

First Parish Brewster's Council has begun providing tutorials for how to use the Church's member directory database to committees, groups, and church members. As a way to streamline and make communication easier and more effective, the use of this database by all church members and staff will save everyone time and provide a smooth way to bring interested individuals

and groups together. The database, entitled BREEZE, is easily accessible from a computer, cell phone or iPad either on church property or anywhere offsite. The tutorials will be provided in either small group settings or individually. Small group tutorials will be provided by request, for groups such as a small group of church friends, a committee or service group. Individual tutorials will be provided on a drop-in basis between church services on Sundays in the church Library. Groups or committees who would like to schedule a tutorial (put us on the Agenda!) should contact their Council Liaison or Susan Smith.

The tutorial lasts about 30 minutes and is intended to provide basic internet access information on church property, usernames and passwords for accessing BREEZE, updating individual profiles in the Directory, entering important committee information and learning basic research components in the program for improving communication. These elements are considered to be" BREEZE 101" skills that all church members will find useful. "BREEZE 201" tutorials will be provided once the database is completed and updated.

The Council believes that using this electronic tool will lead to LOTS of new connections for FPB members and greatly enhance the work of its committees and staff. Karena Stroh manages the software and uses it extensively in her work as Administration and Finance Director. The tutorials have been planned with Karena's input, and, once all are versed in its use, church members and staff will be able work together more efficiently. Look for the BREEZE sail icon and more information soon.

Gail Webb, Council Chair

#### Winter Pathways - Adult Education Series

Here are the classes for our Winter Pathways. More details and sign ups to come in January. Classes are a great way to get to know your fellow FPB'ers. If there is something you would like to see offered or an idea for a class you would like to teach email me at twinkshastings@firstparishbrewster.org

#### **Spiritual Practices Retreat**

All are invited to this retreat focused on spiritual practices. What are the things that ground your being and refill your well? What is your own theology and how does it inform your life and how you spend your days? Join Rev Jessica for this retreat where we will explore these questions together. Feb 13th 9am – 3pm

#### Supporting Our Values with Our Investments and Purchasing Power

In this study circle, we will encourage and support one another as we examine our investments and consumption from the perspective of aligning them with our values. We will share readings, discussion, and research as we journey on this path together. Led by Jeff Schwartz

#### Writing Your Spiritual Will

Most of us have a will, but not many of us have a spiritual will. A spiritual will passes on assets to the next generation that offer an account of our values, what we have lived for, what has mattered to us, our accumulated wisdom from years of living. Join Rev. Tracy Johnson for this four session series.

#### **Book Group**

Partly in preparation for our upcoming Wampanoag celebration (on March 31), but mostly because this book is truly excellent, we will be discussing *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz. "This book provides an essential historical reference for all Americans. ... The American Indians' perspective has been absent from colonial histories for too long, leaving continued misunderstandings of our struggles for sovereignty and human rights." - Peterson Zah, former President of the Navajo Nation. Led by Tia Cross

#### **Experiencing the Creative Arts**

Pathways is once again offering workshops on the creative arts this winter/spring. We changed the format for this session so that you can sign up for individual classes rather than the whole shebang. Classes will include poetry, theatre, and other forms of art, sign up for all, some, or one of these creative arts classes. All classes are on a Saturday morning from 10 AM to noon. No experience needed, just a willingness to have fun. Dates, teachers and topics to come.

#### **Full Moon Mediations In support of Humanity**

Full moon meditation looks to utilize our alignment with higher energies in group meditation to support the evolution of humanity and thus bring more light and love to the world. We meet once a month within 2-3 days of the full moon. We will meet for approximately 1 hour which will include a half hour of discussion and a half hour of meditation. This is a continuation of a group that began with our current zodiacal year in Aries.

The full moon meditations winter schedule is Thursdays, January 24 (Aquarius), February 21 (Pisces) and March 21 (Aries) @ 1 pm in Winslow House.

To support unity and caring within the human family; social activism is one way, meditation is another. Please email your questions and or confirmation to Judy Harrison at bharrison2@comcast.net.

### Children and Youth Ministries Mystery, Possibility, Trust

As we move into the darker and more mysterious months of the year, I have been reflecting on the idea of living into the mystery of life. My experience of being in hospital this summer opened me up in so many ways that I never would have been opened, if I had not going through what I did. I certainly gained a newfound respect for the nursing profession, those dedicated people who are caring for you at your most vulnerable. I met some real-life angels in the two plus months I spent in hospital. I gained some practice in patience and letting go of what I wanted to be happening and just being with what was happening. Overwhelmingly though, I got to appreciate the mystery and fragility of life itself as I grappled with the bigger questions of why are we here, what happens in death, and why are these things happening to me? The take away for me was life is for living, for being fully alive and the rest, truly is a mystery.

Nothing makes me more fully alive than growing in faith with the children and youth of First Parish. We have had a fabulous start to the year. Our Harry Potter curriculum has been a huge hit, our youth are thriving and learning and our Sex and Sexuality program - Our Whole Lives - is off to a great start. I continue to seek ways to support our families and find meaningful intergenerational connections.

I am so glad to be serving this community. As we head into the mystery of winter, I invite you to consider what makes you fully alive in your faith, and in the world.

Twinks Hastings, CYM Director

### In Harmony – Music Ministries

December is the busiest time of year for a choral conductor. From Christmas concerts, to Messiah sings, to Music Sunday, a carol sing, and Christmas eve, I have to remember to breathe. It is easy to get caught up in the details, which are necessary and do demand attention, but I try to enjoy the music and the music making in community.

I love hearing the choir make progress in a rehearsal, or singing with gusto and joy and confidence on a Sunday morning. One of my greatest joys is preparing two Music Sundays a year. It is a challenge, to be sure, but with the talented singers and instrumentalists of First Parish Brewster, it is a joy. For this Winter Music Sunday, we'll explore winter - embracing the cold and dark, and at the same time, finding the joy and comfort in the season. One of my favorite pieces is called "Winter." The musical setting of the poem is beautiful, capturing the the mystery of nature, the haunting beauty of the birds' song, and the majesty of earth's music, "maestoso and grand." I hope you enjoy the poem as much as I do.

Danica Buckley, Music Director

#### Winter

At last winter falls upon
The earth, at first hesitant and then,
Triumphantly it comes in the end
Taking all life back to itself.

And all of us are walking toward
Eternity across the snow,
A passage preparing paradise
Or all that spring might bring again.

First to be missed is the summer's sweet

Music that used to resound from tree

To tree, rivers of music that rang

Through the air, frozen where silence prevails.

So praise all sparrows, their plaintive cries
That call to the sun, so tenuous
And almost invisible they are
The air, its breathing and its heart.

And rivers, praise them, their growing still,
The grass remaining at their sides,
Quivering under the wind forlorn,
Abandoned under pitiless skies.

Now let us sing the naked trees
That line the grey horizon with
A music slow as eternity,
But music maestoso and grand.
~ E.D. Blodgett

#### From the Board President

The Board is energized and working hard. It is such an inspiration to have Rev. Jessica here with us in her second year. Board members are developing a strong partnership with our minister and, together, we are hitting our stride. It's amazing what can be accomplished when minister and church leaders are committed to working together for the long term health of the congregation.

Board members were inspired by all the thoughtful comments that were collected and shared at the October 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday service. Jessica asked congregants three questions: Who are we here for?, Why does this place matter?, and What are your hopes and dreams for FPB with specific reference to our physical facilities? We were asked to write our answers during the service, and then share our responses with each other in small groups during coffee hours. A Board member sat with each group, listening.

#### **Board of Trustees 2018-19**

Pat Stover, President
Judy Harrison, Past President
Jim Hild, President-Elect
Diane Pansire, Treasurer
Carol DiAnna, Clerk
Members-At-Large
Susan Daly
Ralph Diamond
Katherine Farnham
Liz Gordan

A preliminary look at the results of that Sunday's reflections have revealed a religious community that seeks to expand its vision of who we are, to intentionally reach out to people of all ages, races, classes, genders who seek inclusion in a liberal religious community. We want to draw in the marginalized, people searching for truth and meaning, the disenfranchised, people who want to raise their children with UU values, those seeking love and acceptance, those with gifts and talents to offer, the lonely and isolated, those who need sanctuary and rejuvenation, those who want safety to be who they really are. What an inspiring vision of inclusion!

There is an awareness that the buildings which make up our extensive campus are divided by a busy road. Leading to inherent problems! We think we could be even more disability friendly; more green. Our growing membership needs a more spacious Parish Room, We need a re-design of the Parish Room and Fellowship Hall, including a *serve-safe* kitchen! We're concerned about the underutilization of the Barn. Then there are the inadequacies of our parking situation. And a number of people don't like the uncomfortable and fixed pews in the sanctuary and others would love to improve our audio-visual technology. And we aren't just thinking about our growing membership when we are considering these improvements —we realize we would also be more attractive to outside groups, who might want to rent our space and bring in income!

Incorporating your hopes and dreams for the future, we are making decisions about what actions we can take this year to bring us closer to our dreams, and what needs to wait until next year or the year after. We hope to present our annual vision of ministry to you, the priorities we and our minister have agreed upon for this year, at a special congregational meeting this winter. In the meantime, know that I am grateful for your election of me to the Board-it is very satisfying to be able to serve our community in such a meaningful capacity.

Pat Stover, Board President

The FPBUU Board of Trustees meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm and unless they are in executive session; all are welcome to attend. If you have a concern that needs to be brought to the Board, contact Pat Stover at patstover@earthlink.net



#### From the Endowment Board

#### **Endowment Fund Distribution Requests**

Each year the Endowment Board may distribute up to 5% of the Fund's value as of December 31<sup>st</sup> during the following fiscal year. In recent years, this has exceeded \$20,000 annually. Over the past sixteen years, distributions have totaled \$175,790.

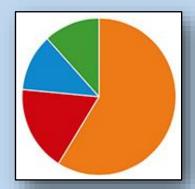
#### Disbursements may be used to support:

- Program Enrichment
- Enhancement of Buildings and Grounds
- Community Outreach
- Developing the wider mission of the UUA

If your committee, group or team would like to request Endowment Funds for a project, please submit a proposal to the Endowment Board by January 11, 2019 for disbursement during the next fiscal year (July 2019-June 2020).

Request forms are available in the office or can be emailed by calling the office at 508-896-5577. Questions? Need help formulating a request?

Please contact Susan Flaws, Endowment Chair



#### From the Treasurer

"We can hold more money in our cupped hands than in a clenched fist."

When I was a little girl, I lay on my bedroom floor with my pencil and composition book, working out months...years...decades even, of compounded interest longhand. It thrilled me to imagine \*money\* would help me make money! Wow, it was a revelation! Money was actually my friend. We grew up poor, food stamps, the shame of free lunches at school, bill collectors calling and Mom pretending she wasn't home. But the thing that seemed to be missing was actually wildly abundant.

I have known wealthy people that clung anxiously to what they had, they lived in scarcity, and lack, and fear. Money spent was a debit, and they were the poorer for it. I have known families that just make ends meet, but they are washed in abundance of love and time and energy, and for them, money created no discernable anxiety. We all have an emotional relationship with money. From my experience, I would say that it feels better, and works better, to try and overcome the scarcity mindset.

If we relax into the sense that we never fully possess money, that it is part of the great life flow, we can notice if the sense of impermanence triggers feelings of excitement and play, or of fear and clinging. Whichever the answer, or probably a mix of the two, it is because of the many messages, including conflicting ones, about money we've gotten from family, friends, co-workers, society, our faith community, and our own experiences. Please feel free to find me, or someone else, with whom to share your money story.

Your Finance Committee is made up of a team of people, each with our own emotional relationship to money. Church finances may seem fixed and rational and objective, and they are. But it is also our collective hopes and dreams, and the thrilling sense of limitless possibility of what we can do together! We hold our own stories and your stories, and we are here, carefully and joyfully, in service of the Mission and Vision of First Parish Brewster.

Diane Pansire, Treasurer



#### Beneath the Surface - Winter 2018

Lately I have been seeing and hearing a television commercial that shows young children exploring and pondering things, in nature mostly, while in the background I hear the inimitable voice of Fred Rogers – that's Mr. Rogers to many of us – singing a little tune extolling the virtues of wonder. How marvelously wonderful our world is if we open ourselves to wonder, he is saying. I remember my daughter at a very young age seated in front of the television, all eyes on this gentle man; actually in conversation with him, answering his questions as if he was right there in the room with us! His soft spoken and playful invitation to wonder today is no less enticing.

And he seems to suggest that there are infinite possibilities that await us when we offer ourselves to what might be, possibilities for ourselves and, by extension, our world. It gives me hope. I feel somehow held by this partially fictional, partially real character and what he proposes.

As the winter of the year approaches, the women I serve through WE CAN in our PathMakers Mentoring Program are moving from thinking about what might be to a place of action; taking small steps and bigger leaps into possibility. In the sacred safety of our space together, they are held and encouraged; supported and affirmed, as they open themselves to life in new ways that evoke the humility and awe that mystery brings. These individual unfoldings are celebrated monthly, the good and the difficult, both, in an atmosphere of lovingkindness.

I am blessed in this introspective season of the year to bear witness to the power of wonder and possibility in the lives of those whose hearts and minds are set on self-discovery and personal growth. I await with them the changes to come, filled with hopefulness and trusting the Love in our midst.

Blessed be, Rev. Tracy Johnson, Community Minister

#### **LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee Projects & Resources**

As you may know, we are unique in that First Parish Brewster was the first to receive the Welcoming Congregation designation in the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our focus is on the current status of LGBTQ initiatives on the Cape and beyond. We have offered educational programs with films and speakers on same-sex marriage and coming out as a Trans person; organized demonstrations and vigils; provide community support and outreach at the annual Cape PRIDE events. We support and attend the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance event, the SAGE Table event for elder LGBTQ people, and PFLAG events. We often co-sponsor such organizations by providing financial assistance. One year, through a grant, we supported the new LGBTQ Outreach program at the Orleans Senior Center. This year we provided support to the Freedom MA campaign to defeat Article 3 on the ballot which would have taken away civil rights of Transgender people. In the past we have given grants to GLAD, the Freedom to Marry Coalition, the Youth Outreach Hospitality Action Team, sponsored by the Nauset Interfaith Association and CIGSYA House.

Our biggest project is sponsoring the annual GAYLA Ball each February, a joyful Cape-wide dinner dance for the LGBTQ community and our non-gay allies. Each year we honor a person who has contributed to the LGBTQ community through leadership and advocacy and provide a \$2,000-3,000 grant to an LGBTQ organization with and an equal amount used to support the FPBUU annual budget. The GAYLA Ball requires our committee to have on hand a considerable amount of seed money to put on the party each year.

Our committee is unique in that we are partially supported by an annual bequest from the Cochran Memorial Trust Fund at the Cape Cod Foundation to support our work for the LGBTQ community.



### Church Office (508) 896-5577

#### **Staff Directory**

Minister: Rev. Jessica Clay (Ext. 308) revjessica@firstparishbrewster.org

Administration and Finance Director: Karena Stroh (Ext. 304)

karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org

Bookkeeper: Ted Jalowick (Ext. 305) tedjalowick@firstparishbrewster.org

#### **Children and Youth Ministries:**

Twinks Hastings, CYM Director (Ext. 303) twinkshastings@firstparishbrewster.org

Music: Danica Buckley, Music Director (Ext. 307) danicabuckley@firstparishbrewster.org

Rich Elliott-Grunes, OMG leader (Organic Music Group) elliottgrunes@gmail.com

**Sexton & Videographer:** : Jennie Mignone (508) 776-6844 jenniemignone@firstparishbrewster.org

Thrift Store Manager and Fundraising Coordinator: Linda Delorey (508) 896-8744 lindadelorey@firstparishbrewster.org

**Affiliate Community Minister:** Rev. Tracy Johnson, WE CAN Program Manager arevtracy@gmail.com

#### **FPB Publications**

**Weekly Angle Submissions:** 

weekly@firstparishbrewster.org

Quarterly Angle & General Communications/PR:

cove@firstparishbrewster.org

#### **Website/ Social Media**

fpbuu.org

Facebook.com/fpbuu

Need help requesting a room for an event or meeting?

Need to request a sexton?

Need help with our online directory?

The FPB Communications Office
Volunteers Etc. (COVE) are here to
support the administrative work of the
church. Call or stop by and let
us know how we can help!

The office is open Monday – Friday 9 am - 12 pm.

cove@firstparishbrewster.org 508-896-5577