

First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist

2019 Spring Angle

I am going to try to pay attention to the spring.

I am going to look around at all the flowers,

And look up at the hectic trees.

I am going to close my eyes and listen.

~Anne Lamott

Spring Worship Services

Sunday, March 3, 9 and 11 am

What Now?

Led by FPBUU High School Youth Group

Join our youth as they lead worship looking at the world they dream of, and how to make that dream become reality.

Sunday, March 10, 9 and 11 am

Perseverance and Pilgrimage

Rev. Jessica Clay

Worship Associate April Naturale

Join us for this service where we will explore what it means to have a sacred connection to the land and claim it as yours, in the midst of others who disagree.

Sunday, March 17, 9 and 11 am

Path of the Heart

Rev. Jessica Clay

Worship Associate Margaret Rice Moir

“Remember, we are all affecting the world every moment, whether we mean to or not. Our actions and states of mind matter, because we’re so deeply interconnected with one another.” These words from Ram Dass call us to explore living life according to our highest ideals- the path of the heart. Join us for this service where will explore what this means for us, and what it asks of us.

Sunday, March 24, 9 and 11 am

From Wholeness to Wholeness

Guest Minister Rev. Paul Sprecher

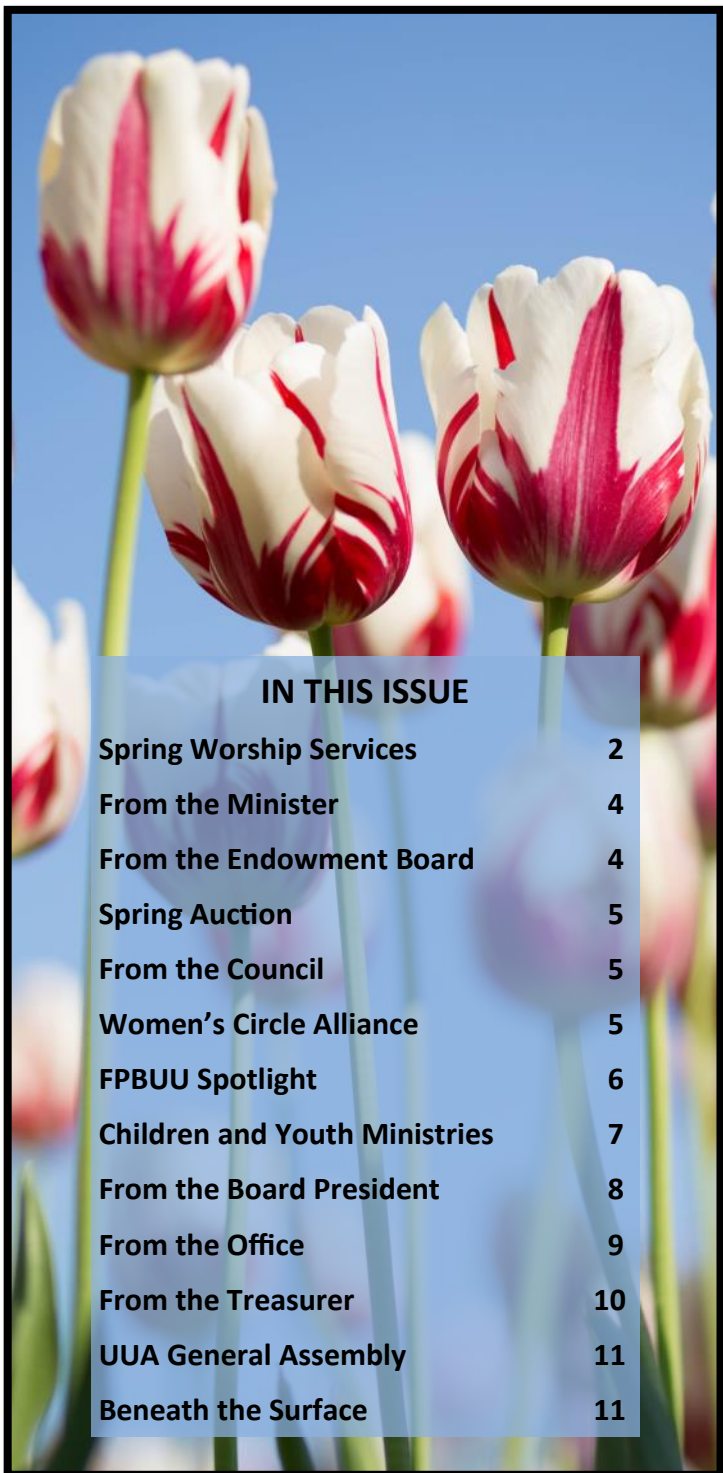
Worship Associate Chuck Madansky

We are born in innocence, we grow into complexity and confusion, and we reach the end as what we have become. How may we find The Way in this pilgrim journey we are on?

Sunday, March 31, 9 and 11 am

Know Your Neighbors

Ramona Peters, Tribal Historian and Leslie Jonas, Tribal Administrator, of the Mashpee Wampanoag will join Rev. Jessica Clay and members of the One Earth One People Committee in a morning of spirituality, words and music from the People of the First Light.



IN THIS ISSUE	
Spring Worship Services	2
From the Minister	4
From the Endowment Board	4
Spring Auction	5
From the Council	5
Women’s Circle Alliance	5
FPBUU Spotlight	6
Children and Youth Ministries	7
From the Board President	8
From the Office	9
From the Treasurer	10
UUA General Assembly	11
Beneath the Surface	11

Photo by Kwang Mathurosemontri on Unsplash

Sunday, April 7, 9 and 11 am

Broken Pieces

Rev. Jessica Clay

Worship Associate Wilderness Sarchild

Join us for this service where we will explore how together we can help to create a beautiful mosaic, and how you are needed for what is to come. A service of being broken open and whole together.

Sunday, April 14, 9 and 11 am

Are We Welcoming?

Rev. Jessica Clay

Worship Associate Candace Hammond

As the first congregation in the UUA to receive Welcome Congregation status, we pride ourselves on being welcoming. Now, in 2019, welcoming is much different.

Thursday, April 18, 6 pm

Maundy Thursday

Join Rev. Jessica & the FPBUU Choir for a service of quiet and reflection. We will explore themes of community, connection, and the grief that comes before rebirth.

Sunday, April 21, 9 and 11 am

Easter Sunday

Let's Celebrate Together, All are Welcome.

Rev. Jessica Clay

CYM Director Twinks Hastings

Join us for this multigenerational service where we will explore how Easter invites us into our own wholeness, and to see the wholeness in others.

Easter egg hunt at 10:15.

Sunday, April 28, 9 and 11 am

Celebrate Connections

Rev. Jessica Clay

FPBUU Stewardship Committee

Join us for this service where we celebrate the end of our stewardship drive.

Sunday, May 5, 9 and 11 am

Join Twinks and the CYM Committee as they celebrate spring in an uplifting multi-generational worship service looking at the way the world wakes up in Spring time. Music by OMG will compliment the liveliness of this time of year. After worship we will gather on the lawn for our annual Maypole ritual.

Sunday, May 12, 9 and 11 am

Making Room for Mystery

Guest Minister Erica Richmond

Worship Associate Lindsey Straus

As we move into the busyness of Spring, how can we cultivate a sense of wonder and curiosity? Unitarian Universalists often turn towards science and rationality, but how can we also make theological room for mystery? Rev. Erica will explore what this means for our tradition and how these important questions show up in hospital chaplaincy.

Sunday, May 19, 9 and 11 am

Music Sunday

And love is love is love is love is love is love is love is love" Lin-Manuel Miranda
Join the Choir and Ensemble as we share the power of love in words and music.

Sunday, May 26th 10 am

In Memoriam

Rev. Jessica Clay

Worship Asspciate Margaret Rice-Moir

This Memorial Day we will reflect upon those who have served in the military and armed forces, and the sacrifices they have made. With many conflicting views on our armed forces, this offers us a chance to honor those in our circles who have served, and the complexity of this.

From the Minister

Recently one Sunday I wore the stole that was given to me by FPBUU almost one year ago. It is bright green with flowers and butterflies on it. So many people commented to me that I was bringing spring just by wearing that stole. Each time I wear it I am reminded of my ordination & installation last April, and what a journey we have been on together. It brings me joy to reflect on the path we are travelling together. This March our theme is *Journey*. We will reflect on where we have been, and where we hope to go.

Starting on Monday March 11, I will be offering a Lent Reflection series on Mondays from 1-2pm in the library. This will be a quiet time spent sitting with poetry and other sacred texts. Lent is a time of going inward, reflecting on who we are, and taking time for quiet as we move towards spring.

Our April theme is *Wholeness*. Join us for this month where we will be exploring what it means to be broken and whole all at the same time. In order to reflect on the ways we are whole and holy together, you are invited to continue to join us for our Lent Reflection series which will continue until April 15. Once we have welcomed spring and all it brings, we will transition to May, where we will be exploring the theme of *Curiosity*. May invites us to move from a place of gentle questions and joy as we prepare for the warmth of summer. I hope these next three months bring you time for quiet, reflection, and connection.

Rev. Jessica Clay



From the Endowment Board

Our First Parish Brewster Endowment Fund was established in 1988 by pooling a group of undesignated memorial gifts for a total of \$5,150. As of January 31, 2019, our Endowment Funds total \$880,861.13. When we repay the remaining balance on the loan from Endowment, the Fund will be worth over a million dollars.

The largest gift (\$350,000) to our Endowment Fund came in 1998 from the Homer P. Clark Fund at the UUA. The fund had been established for the benefit of First Parish in 1937 with a gift of \$5,000 in stock! Ah, the wonders of compound interest.

Over the years many members have included FPB in their estate planning, including gifts during their lifetime, bequests, charitable remainder trusts and distributions from retirement and pension funds. Members who have included First Parish in their estate planning become members of the Homer P. Clark Legacy Society.

Have you included First Parish Brewster in your estate planning? Please let the Endowment Board know, so that we may add your name to the Homer P. Clark Legacy Society book.

Endowment Board Members: Susan Flaws, Dick Guernsey, Howard Hayes, Carol Wall and Dwight Woodson.



Spring Auction

It's never too early to begin planning.

This year's *Spring Community Building Time and Talent Auction*, traditionally one of FPB's biggest fundraisers, is set for **May 19th**, **between and after the Sunday Services**. That may sound a long ways off but please start thinking about what you might be able to contribute to this congregational effort! Items can range from small (3 hrs of gardening help) to large (dance party for 30) and everything in between.

If you have donated in previous years, we hope that you will do so again. If you haven't, we urge you to put on your thinking cap and imagine what skill, talent or service could be of use to others in our congregational community.

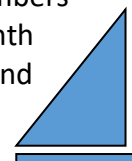
Stay tuned for more info and details in the weeks ahead. Any questions contact Linda Delorey at 508-360-7994



From the Council

Support for our Member Directory - Breeze

Bring your questions to Council members the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month during coffee hour between 10:15 and 11 am. Look for the sailboat logo and sailor hats!



In addition, any group or committee who wishes a presentation at a committee meeting or group event to learn how this tool can help improve committee work may schedule one by contacting Council members Gail Webb and Susan Smith.

Follow-up on the February 16th All Committee Meeting

The Council is happy to hear that all the attendees thought that the morning was worthwhile and wants to thank the participants for attending. We received valuable feedback and hope that committees will be able to use the ideas generated at this meeting to benefit the work of our church.

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 2019 Spring Programs

The Spring programs for the Women's Circle Alliance all draw on the deeply talented membership of First Parish Brewster.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13th:

Rev. Jessica Clay will lead group conversations centered on our life stories.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th:

The Wabi Sabi Dance Choir will perform and talk with us about what they do and why they dance.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8th:

Wilderness Sarchild will read from her highly regarded poetry book "Old Women Talking."

Everyone is invited to join with the Alliance in the Parish Room around 1:00 pm for refreshments and conversation before the programs begin at 1:30 pm.

First Parish Brewster UU Spotlight

From the hills of Scotland to the shores of Cape Cod Bay: Twinks Hastings, CYM Director



Twinks Hastings hails from Scotland, as all who hear her can attest. She attended Auchincruive Agricultural College, a 1,000-student working farm on an ancient estate, where she majored in Countryside Management and Environmental Education. Following school, 20-year-old Twinks traveled the world on her own. She started her journey in Texas, then to California, to Fiji (working with Fiji Girls Scouts) and to Australia (park ranger working in koala relocation.) "I was also incredibly lucky to work at Ayers Rock, Uluru, in the aboriginal community," Twinks said. She was also able to fly to South Africa and work at Kruger National Park.

Her heart drew her back to the U.S. and she was recruited to come to Sandwich to work at Camp Burgess and Heywood. "I taught environmental education, developed programs, and was a section director in their summer camp," she said, "but then I created and ran their farm program and worked with an alternative high school program. I loved working at the camp!" She stayed at Burgess/Heywood for 10 years.

"I met Chuck Madansky at some event or other, and he encouraged me to attend a service at FPB." The first time she came, she got up to the door... but turned around and left.

As a child, Twinks had been highly religious. She planned to become a minister in the Church of Scotland. At age 16, she was asked to formally join the church, which meant signing onto a declaration of beliefs. In thinking it over, she realized she didn't agree with many of her church's precepts (against gay marriage, for instance) and so in the end, she declined to join. In its disappointment at losing a young, bright, enthusiastic member, the church hounded Twinks for months. It was memories of this horrific time that came between Twinks and her initial visit to First Parish Brewster.

Happily for us, she came back another time and stayed to hang around and become part of the FPB community. That was eight years ago. Her first volunteer engagement was as a member of the lay worship team, then she became a youth advisor for a time. She was elected to the Board of Trustees, founded the Young Adult Group, and coordinated the Sea Captains' Fair for a couple of years. Her enthusiasm was infectious and the energy brought to the church by the Young Adults was embraced by the congregation.

So it was a natural for Twinks to apply for the position of Children and Youth Ministries Director. "My passions are education, working with children and youth, and spiritual growth. This job," Twinks says, "is the perfect blend for my skills and passions."

As CYM Director, she works 40 hours a week, for eleven months of the year:

- being a voice for the children and youth in the congregation;
- helping to guide the congregation toward multigenerational being;
- administering all educational programming from childcare through our adult program, Pathways;
- running the High School Youth Group program;
- being part of the worship team;
- tending to the spiritual life of children and youth and offering pastoral care for our families;
- taking responsibility for the sexual health and safety of all the CYM programs.

Spring Pathways

Stay tuned to the Weekly Angle to read about our next set of classes which will be running in May and June!

(Spotlight continued from page 6)

"Our program has really grown over the past eighteen months," Twinks observed. "In fact, I'm not sure how much longer our one-room schoolhouse model is going to be sustainable. The future is bright for FPB UU, I think."

Outside of work, Twinks has also recently begun her DRE credentialing program through the UUA. This two-year program of study addresses eight competencies of religious education, through on-line classes and meetings, face-to-face study, working with a mentor monthly, and "a lot of required reading!" Twinks has to compile a portfolio of evidence-based work from FPB for each competency. The program culminates with an appearance in front of a UUA panel where Twinks will be quizzed ("grilled," as she put it) about all she has learned and how she has applied it. If approved, she will be installed at General Assembly. Her goal is to complete the work in time to be installed at the Providence, RI, GA in 2020.

"My hope for every one of our FPB children and youth is that, at the end of high school, they will have a real sense of who they are and a clear sense of their own personal theology," Twinks said. "I want them to feel they have a life-long spiritual home here, with a caucus of kids who will be there for them. And I want them to be religiously literate and able to be at work in the world, living our UU values, and making change."

Children and Youth Ministries Journey

As a non-snow-lover, I have been delighted by the lack of snow this winter, despite my understanding that climate change is real, and this unseasonable winter is not a good thing when viewed through that lens.

One downside has been a lack of cold, stormy days to snuggle up at home and get through the increasing pile of books that I must read for my credentialing program. I am 4 months into this journey and have learned so much. I have completed and passed my Administration and Volunteer Management and Philosophy of Religion Education modules, and by the time you read this, I will be in the middle of my History of Unitarian Universalist module. In April, I will be taking a weekend-long Worship Module. I started this program with the intention of being able to grow professionally, which is happening. The part that has surprised me is the personal transformative journey this program is taking me on.

During the philosophy class, we were asked to create a "personal philosophy of religious education statement." I have been an educator for 17 years and have never really thought about what my philosophy has been, and how it has transitioned over the years. While I will be reevaluating this statement at the end of the program, for now, here it is:

For me, religious education is a wild adventure, guided by a long tradition of change makers, visionaries, adventurers and faithful heretic. As each person takes their own religious journey, there are so many paths from which to choose, areas to discover, conclusions to draw. RE is the vessel in which this discovery can take place. RE provides knowledge as its basic building block, but then holds dear each individual's wonder, discovery, and delight as they form their own faith and deepen their connection to the spirit of things, however that presents for them. RE asks the questions that are not asked in text books and gets to the heart of the matter; it's messy, deep, wonderful, creative, and vitally important for all ages in a faith community. RE is the foundation on which our faith is built and the guiding force that will bring us into the future.

The CYM Committee is working on creating a philosophy of our Religious Education here at FPB, seeking input from various parties. I look forward to working to create a vision as we continue to grow as a multi-generational community.

Twinks Hastings, CYM Director

From the Board President

It was with glad heart and positive outlook that I presented the Board's "Annual Vision of Ministry" to the congregation after the 10am service Sunday, February 3rd. The Board has been working hard to come up with an "annual vision of ministry", which is what we are calling our annual plan, a list of priorities for this year agreed upon by Board and Minister. And our plan even has a bonus! We also have three long-range goals, with objectives under each which form the annual vision of ministry, the priorities we feel we can achieve this year.

Following are our three long-range goals, with a summary of the priorities under each goal.:

1) Determine and make more visible who we are, who we are here for and what social justice work would inspire and engage our congregation as a whole.

Priorities for this year are incorporating the congregation's hopes and dreams for the future (gathered at the Oct. 21st service on visioning) into our planning; evaluating our move to two Sunday services and our every Sunday split-plate initiative; moving ahead with encouraging more multi-generational inclusion within our growing membership; working with the Social Justice Committee to continue to develop a plan for church-wide social justice projects; and encouraging attendance at next year's general Assembly in Providence.

2) Work to insure a legacy of healthy partnership with our minister, effective governance, sustainable leadership and financial generosity that will build a strong foundation for the future.

Priorities for this year are continuing to build trust in Board/Minister/Staff partnerships; evaluating our governance model-role of the Council, progression model of president-elect, president, past-president, and the role of the Leadership Development Committee; working on developing a model of sustainable leadership; reviving a formal program of leadership development; building a sustainable Stewardship Committee; and evaluating our two major fund-raising events-the fall fair and spring auction.

3) Develop a long-range plan to address the challenges of our physical plant/facilities in terms of both accommodating an increasing membership and allowing us to better fulfill our mission of service to the wider community.

Our priorities for this year are to continue to work with congregational input, using it as a guide in developing a long-range plan; and appointing a Facilities Task Force to assess current conditions and usage of existing buildings and grounds, identify regulatory parameters regarding structural changes (town zoning, historic commission, etc.), consider hopes and dreams of the congregation and make recommendations to the Board.

In the spring of this year, our task will be to evaluate our annual vision, determining what we have actually been successful in achieving this year, and then passing on that evaluation along with this year's annual vision to the incoming Board so that they can create a new annual vision of ministry for fiscal year 2019/20. Thus we begin to set up a stable and regular pattern of planning that we should be able to duplicate every year thereafter. I see this as part of our work, as outlined in long-range goal three, to ensure a legacy of effective governance that will help build a strong foundation for the future.

Pat Stover, Board President

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

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

Celebrate



April is Stewardship month at First Parish Brewster UU. During the month we will celebrate our connections with one another and the larger community as we make our annual pledges which support the diverse work of our church.

Members of the Stewardship Committee this year are Rev. Jessica Clay, Susan Flaws, Tavia Ossola, Barry Powers, Pat Stover, and Dave Winther.

From the Office

I was in a meeting recently when I heard the quintessential word for spring here on Cape Cod...PEEPERS. Someone was checking in and mentioned they had been listening for this most anticipated sound, and I realized how living on the Cape has sunk into my bones. I may always be a washashore, but this place has forever changed me. It feels good to be connected to a place in a way that encourages me to take a deep breath and settle in. It feels like "home" and sometimes the last thing I want is for it to change. And yet, life is constantly changing and nothing stays the same, even if we want it to. With each change, there is loss and gain.



Maybe you looked at your Weekly Angle recently and noticed it's not what you have grown accustomed to. Maybe you miss all the detailed announcements that you patiently anticipate showing up in your inbox each Friday . Maybe you have been avoiding reading it because it had too much in it. Whatever you had come to know about our weekly email newsletter, I encourage you to take a look. The new Weekly Angle format includes multiple links that take you directly to more detailed information that is stored on our website. The updated website was introduced in December, laying the foundation for a new way of getting information on all the happenings here at First Parish Brewster UU. The idea is for the weekly Angle to be a distillation of the most important information that week and the website is designed to be a place of reference that can be accessed at any time.

Back to the peepers...may their sweet sounds bring you the joy of the coming spring.

Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director

From the Treasurer

“Do the best that you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better. “
~Maya Angelou

There is something called, “Railroad Time”. When all the conditions are right... there’s coal, steel, land, steam engines, and people want transportation...then the idea of building railroads occur to many people naturally at the same time.

Our “Railroad Time” is our newly enhanced Timeline. It is the interdependent and cooperative effort of many people to strengthen the working of our church. It is not just Personnel, or just Stewardship, or just the Board, or Finance Committee. It is not just the able leadership of our Minister, our Board President, Administration and Finance Director and Committee Chairs. Several committees are communicating and coordinating across boundaries to consciously create who we are together. It is a work in progress, and reminds us, “We may not have it all together, but together we have it all!”

We are building on a practice of our past, and it has gotten broader and deeper, and found new life because the conditions are right...functional policies and practices, great leadership, inspired vision, purpose, commitment...and from that the idea of working together more closely occurred to many of us naturally at the same time. It feels like ‘It just *happened*’. And it’s that song, ‘We’re going on a journey, oh yea!’

In a healthy system, working together, learning from one another, cooperation, and mutual influence is fun and mutually beneficial. We are part of an interdependent web, and we both create it and surrender to it, together, each meeting or moment, in our journey towards wholeness.

Diane Pansire, Treasurer



COMMON VOICES CHORUS is celebrating their 20th anniversary!

**Common Voices Concert May 10, 2019 7:30 pm
First Parish Brewster Meetinghouse**

Come share the celebration! Welcome to a world where we use voice to bless. We are an ever-changing community of women who are singing our love to life! You are welcomed.

Directed by Jane Lowey



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 General Assembly will be June 19-23 in Spokane, Washington. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.

The Power of We

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

Beneath the Surface

It has been my joy to journey through Preliminary Fellowship as the Affiliate Community Minister at First Parish Brewster. I am grateful to this congregation for the opportunity to explore my ministerial path in your midst; so pleased to have had the support of my colleagues here. Community ministry at its best, in my estimation, is grounded in the work of a church; is understood as a ministry of the church and is supported as such while also serving the membership. We have made good strides toward this vision over the past few years!

My personal journey in ministry is always seeking a balance between the community and the parish. I think of myself as somewhat of a hybrid, with my feet firmly planted in both! How to get to that place of wholeness is a bit of a quandary as I lean first in one direction and then the other, back and forth, looking for the perfect blend.

This spring I will have the chance to dive more deeply into parish responsibilities while the Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper from the Unitarian Church of Barnstable takes a three-month sabbatical. I have been invited to provide a presence in their pulpit and to assist with pastoral care in her absence. I am grateful to that church for this offer and to my flexible co-workers at WE CAN who will afford me some extra time to be present to the task. Perhaps this will satisfy some of my curiosity!

I will be at First Parish once a month, seated in my usual pew and plan to lead this year's UU Common Read again, which is scheduled for April 26th. See members of the UU Connections Team for more information about that!

No matter where you are on your spiritual path, I encourage you to continue to seek that which you perceive as bringing you wholeness; to never lose your curious spirit in the quest.

Blessed be the journey.

Rev. Tracy Johnson, Affiliate Community Minister

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
Ana Glig, Pianist anapiano@ymail.com
Rich Elliott-Grunes, OMG leader (Organic Music Group) elliottrunes@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

Website/ Social Media

fpbuu.org

Facebook.com/fpbuu



Deadline Reminder
FPBUU Quarterly Angle

Summer Issue (June, July, August)
Submissions Due - May 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

**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