

FIRST PARISH BREWSTER
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
WINTER ANGLE 2019 -2020

December (Awe)

*The path of traveling through
the world with amazement*

What is sacred?

January (Integrity)

The path of living inside out

What is my path?

February (Resilience)

*The path of trusting in a love
that will not let you go*

Do I have to make it through
on my own? Is it all up to me?



From the Minister

I love the holidays. I love everything about the holidays. I love the music, the cheesy Hallmark films, the smell of a Christmas tree, and gathering around a table with people I love. I especially love our music Sunday, holiday pageant, and leading worship together on Christmas Eve. Even with all this, I also feel a sense of loneliness with the holidays, with people who have passed away, with friendships far away, and commercial after commercial telling me what my holidays should look and feel like. I am grateful for a religious community that can hold all of this, and hold all that the holidays may bring for you.



Whether this is a time when you need comfort and attend our Blue Holidays service on December 18th, or a time when you want to lift your voice and sing and you join us for our carol sing on December 20th. I hope this holiday season brings you comfort, wonder, and joy. Our theme for the month of December is Awe, may this season bring moments of awe to your heart when you need it most.

As we move into the New Year, we are given an invitation to reflect upon our intentions for 2020. What are your hopes, dreams, and goals for the year? Our theme for the month of January is integrity, we will consider how integrity shows up in our thoughts, actions, and nation, and what this new year is calling us to. We will then transition to our February theme of resilience. We will consider what is needed to create resilience, and what helps to sustain it. I look forward to seeing many of you on Sundays as we move through this turning of the year together.

Blessings, Rev. Jessica

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Holiday Fair

Saturday - Dec 7th

Photos with Santa

1-3 pm Humans

3-4 pm Pets

NEW THIS YEAR...

A biscuit walk & specialty gifts for beloved canines

Also featuring...

cookie walk, baked goods, knitted scarves, hats & mittens, holiday greens & decorations for sale



First Parish Brewster UU 1969 Main St. (6a), Brewster, Ma 02631

From the Sunday Morning Worship Support Team

We invite you to stop by the Sign-up Table in the Parish Room to sign-up for Sunday morning hospitality, flower dedications, and food contributions for St. Joseph Shelter.

Food cards are available each week for purchase.

We can also assist you if your group is in need of a table in the Parish Room for a future coffee hour.

Please remember to leave parking spaces in front of the church for those with handicap stickers.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

FIRST PARISH BREWSTER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Photos with Santa - Dec 7th 1-4 pm

Christmas Pageant - Dec 15th 9 & 11 am

Blue Holidays Service - Dec 18th 6:30 pm

Carol Sing~Get Your Holly Jolly Jingle On!

Dec 20th - 6:30-7:30 pm

Music Sunday - Dec 22nd 9&11 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services - Dec 24th

4:30 pm - Family Service Lessons & Carols

7&9 pm - Lessons & Carols

1969 Main St., Brewster, MA 02631

508-896-5577 fpbuu.org



Christmas Eve Collections for the FPBUU 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. **Starting December 15th** there will be a tree in the church alcove, 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.





Holiday Worship Services

Please join us on Sunday mornings as we quiet our minds and open our hearts for worship. Childcare is available in Fellowship Hall during the services.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 15th, 9 & 11 am

Twinks Hastings, Lifespan Faith
Development Director

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? Felt like you belonged in the choir of Angels but were cast as Caesar? This Christmas season join us at First Parish Brewster for our annual Christmas Pageant, where we tell the timeless story of the birth of Jesus, with you as the cast. The no rehearsal Christmas pageant is a joy filled worship service, with music by our OMG band and a real-time telling of an old story.

Blue Holidays Service

Wednesday, December 18th, 6:30 pm

Reverend Jessica Clay

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

Music Sunday – Joy

Sunday, December 22nd 9 & 11 am

Danica Buckley, Music Director

On Music Sundays past, we have explored themes of light & the beauty of the darkness and cold of winter; the concept of *Hyggelig* (cozy, in Norwegian); & peace, hearkening back to the nineteenth century. This year, we are focusing on simple, lovely JOY. It's what we need. Come prepared to sing with joy, along with the FPBUU Choir & Ensemble.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24th

4:30 pm Family Service:

A multigenerational service with carols

7:00 & 9:00 pm Lessons & Carols:

Traditional Christmas Eve service
with FPBUU Choir & Ensemble

Miracles of the Season

Sunday, Dec 29th 10 am

Wilderness Sarchild, Worship Associate

On this last day of Chanukah, Worship Associate Wilderness Sarchild will guide the congregation in a celebration of miracles, the essence of this Jewish holiday.

Pause & Reset

Sunday, Jan 5th 9 & 11 am

Twinks Hastings, Lifespan Faith
Development Director

Chuck Madansky, Worship Associate

Join Lifespan Faith Development Director Twinks Hastings and Worship Leader Chuck Madansky for our annual Yule Log service. The New Year gives us a moment to pause, to reset and regroup as the sun begins to return. We will explore the pause that this time of year gives us and the benefits to be reaped as we burn the Yule Log with all that we want to get rid of and what we want bring into the New Year with us.

More information on upcoming services can be found at fpbuu.org or in the Weekly Angle

December Spiritual Offerings at FPBUU

Advent Devotions

Monday, December 2, 9, 16, 23
11am -12pm

in the Winslow House Living Room

Join Rev. Jessica as she leads this advent devotions series. We will reflect on poetry and biblical passages together as we explore what this time of waiting invites us to. All are welcome to join this “drop in” series.

An Invocation for Humanity Class

Thursday, December 12th
10:30am – 12pm

in the Winslow House Living Room

Every seven years from Dec 21st-28th the *Festival Week of World Servers* is observed. This is a time when meditators and people of good will world-wide align to form one group to invoke and distribute light and love to an evolving humanity. In a few weeks this festival will be happening again! Come find out more about this festival week through video and presentation.

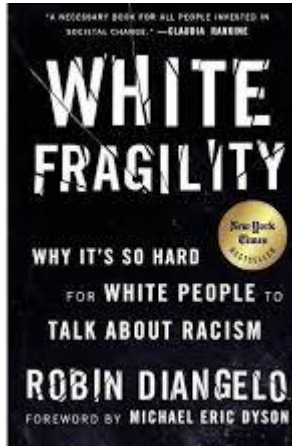
Meditation for Humanity

Friday, December 20
10:30 – 11:30am

in the Winslow House Living Room

Let us gather together and create a cohesive energy field in meditation as we align with other groups. This meditation for humanity will be offered to kick off the *Festival Week of the New Group of World Servers*. Information will be shared on how to participate with online groups that will be meditating throughout the week. The festival begins on the solstice, at the ingress of Capricorn during the time of the new moon.

You can sign up for the humanity class or meditation after service on Sunday or contact Judy Harrison.



White Fragility Book Discussion

Sundays, January 5th, 12th & 26th
3-5 pm in the Parish Room

All are welcome to a facilitated discussion about Robin DiAngelo's book, *White Fragility*. We will share what insights, feelings or curiosity it sparked in relation to us as a white people.

Requirement: Read the book or watch the YouTube video of Robin DiAngelo reading the book.

(<https://youtu.be/45ey4jgoxeU>)

WOMEN'S CIRCLE ALLIANCE 2019-2020 WINTER PROGRAMS

The Woman's Circle Alliance at First Parish Brewster is looking forward to a series of interesting programs at their Wednesday afternoon meetings intended to fulfill the group's purpose of "offering forum discussions on timely topics, fellowship, and service to others." Everyone is welcome at our monthly events, which last through May. Membership is encouraged but is not necessary to attend meetings.

Here are the next three programs:

Wednesday, December 11

Nauset High School's Honors Chorus will perform seasonal music in the Sanctuary. This always impressive group of singers will lift your heart. Plenty of room so bring a guest or two.

Wednesday, January 8

A look at the current status of Habitat for Humanity and its exciting plans for the future. Vicki Goldsmith will inspire us with the continuing vision of making affordable housing possible for our Cape Cod neighbors.

Wednesday, February 12

Matt and Cara Scinto will share their knowledge and experience of music and its healing effects on the aging brain. Cara is the Director of Memory Care at Maplewood Assisted Living, and Matt is founder and conductor of the Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra.

**For more happenings visit the
News and Calendar section at fpbuu.org**

Children and Youth Ministries -Integrity

Recently Rev. Jessica and I ran a class with our Coming of Age Youth on *Good Versus Evil*. There was a profound moment for me in the discussion when one of the youth said “One person’s hero is another person’s villain”. The youth also agreed that people were not inherently good or evil, but their actions or beliefs could be categorized as good and evil. This got me to wondering about how to respond to the question of how we act as a people of faith with integrity when “One person’s hero is another person’s villain”.

Like all good pondering, my mind wandered to Disney World where I will be taking a trip with a friend who really relates to the Disney Villains. As we were planning our trip, it was evident that I was going to get to meet all of my heroes, Tinkerbell, Ariel, Moana and crew and yet there were no meet and greets with any of the villains. Disney strives to be the Happiest Place on Earth and the idea of a child running into the Evil Queen in Fantasy Land would take away from the happiness factor. I felt my friend’s disappointment.

Then as I scrolled through the app for the 200th time an afterhours villain party popped up. I was beyond delighted that we found a way my friend was going to have her magical wishes fulfilled whilst Disney got to keep the integrity of the magic for all.

This winter as we continue to ponder good and evil with the coming of age kids, we will also continue to be curious about integrity and resilience, disappointment and awe, with heroes and villains alike.

Twinks Hastings, Lifespan Faith Development Director



PATHWAYS NEWS - Adult Education Classes resume Winter, 2020

Do you have a passion for sharing your experience and knowledge? **Is there a program you would like to lead or a class you would like to teach for the FPB community?** The Pathways (Adult Education) Team is ready to receive your suggestions and offerings. If you visit the Pathways page at fpbuu.org, you can use the on-line form (<https://fpbuu.breezechms.com/form/95ec8476>) to submit your class suggestion. You will be contacted by a Pathways team member when the winter program offerings are finalized in late December.

The **deadline for submitting a class offering is December 23th**. Class offerings can be short (a couple of hours meeting once) or long (weekly sessions meeting over several weeks.)

Sessions must begin no earlier than February 1, 2020 and be completed by May 31, 2020. Pathways Class offerings will be publicized during the month of January and sign-ups managed by the Pathways team.

Please consider how you might serve the congregation by sharing your passion and expertise. Thank you for your time and willingness to be a part of the Pathways program.

In Harmony

For choirs, choruses, and conductors, December is a big music month. Many churches of all faiths add something special to their service music, such as a cantata, or perhaps a full service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas eve or on a Sunday afternoon. At First Parish Brewster, we are not lacking in a bounty of seasonal music offerings.

Starting on December 15th, with the annual pageant, Rich Elliot-Grunes and OMG present beautiful, lively music to accompany the sheep and other critters, the star, Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, shepherds, and wise people. It is a beautiful telling of the Christmas story.

Come to the second annual Carol Sing! on Friday, December 20th, from 6:30-7:30pm in the Parish Room, we'll have hot cocoa and hot cider and Christmas cookies (and a carrot or two for the reindeer and for those who prefer something less sugary.) You can call out your favorite carol or wintery song from our song book. It's a great time, an hour of relaxing musical merriness.

Music Sunday's two services are on December 22nd. Over the years, we have explored themes of light and the beauty of the darkness and cold of winter, *Hyggelig* (cozy, in Norwegian), and peace, hearkening back to the nineteenth century and Longfellow and the Sunday school peace movement. Last year, the climate crisis crept into the music and the message. This year, we are focusing on simple, lovely JOY. It's what we need.

I am always in awe of the volunteer musicians, both singers and instrumentalists, of First Parish Brewster. They work hard and bring much joy to the services.

We begin rehearsing Christmas music in the heat of September, and everything for me, chorally speaking, ramps up toward Christmas services and concerts. It reaches such a height, and I sometimes feel a little blue when it is over. But then I get to start rehearsing for Easter and Spring Music Sunday in January. And other musically exciting services come along, too.

Music is the gift of the season . . . the musical cycle of the year continues.

Danica A. Buckley, Music Director



Helping Hands & Pastoral Associates Ministries

Helping Hands offers rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, Sunday services and other church events.

We are also able to provide soup if you are ill and the occasional meal. Three annual cookie visits are made to housebound members and those in care facilities.

The Pastoral Associates Ministry extends the reach of pastoral care through our trained lay listeners who make regular visits to members at the Minister's direction.

If you or someone you know is in need of any of these services, please call Tavia Ossola or the church office at 508-896-5577.

Beneath the Surface – Thoughts from Your Community Minister

There is a stillness that accompanies this season of the year; that calls to me in ways unique from other days. It is experienced in the crisp night air and the brilliance of a starlit Cape Cod sky; in the silent falling of the first snow; in the stark silhouette of branches emptied of their leaves as they sway in the wind. Entering into communion with the world around me seems somehow integral to my being. I am connected to the larger, greater Oneness of all and know a renewed sense of wholeness as a result.

I know this; wait for it as the days shorten; understand the value of it for me. And . . . I forget, too, to notice; to give myself over to it; to savor that feeling of being right in between the physical and the spiritual, centered; held by both and free. It is so easy to get caught up in the pull of the day to day – work, preparedness, the needs of family, the caustic rhetoric of our times. When I do, I realize that I lose a bit of my authenticity; my integrity. Those awe-filled moments are necessary parts of my living. They nourish my actions; my choices. They remind what I am truly made of and for.



I wish for you in this season of stillness, times of quiet connection with whatever it is that holds you closest to your deepest self. May we come to a place of acting out of our most authentic values; fed by the communion we experience with what is integral to us. Over time we build our core and strengthen our capacity to live in Oneness with all that is.

May it be so.

Rev. Tracy

From the Treasurer

Here's the highlights of FPB's financial status at the end of the first quarter of the church year, which ended on September 30th. Pledge commitments are about \$6,000 more than in the annual budget as passed by the congregation at our annual meeting in June. The offertory is about \$1,800 behind budget. The Thrift Store is just ahead of budget. Expenses are just under budget. Overall, lookin' good!

We've had 3 successful FPB fundraisers, and have already made \$7,000 of the \$8,000 we've budgeted for this year, and the winter holiday fundraiser is on the way! Much of the success can be attributed to collaboration! Kudos to the people who have stepped up and said, 'I have an idea!' Kudos to the new Fundraising Committee which has helped turn inspired ideas into financial successes. This new way of doing things shows us there is an important place for all of the butterflies and the bees among us. We love a good tradition, but let's promise that if it starts to feel like drudgery, we can let go, and trust that a new good idea will come. Let's joyfully raise money by providing meaningful and fun ways for us to connect with one another, and with the wider community.

Diane Pansire, Treasurer



From the Endowment Board - Our Endowment Loan Repayment Fund

Have shares of appreciated stock on which you would pay capital gains, if sold?

Over 70 ½ and required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA?

Consider making a donation to our Endowment Loan Repayment Fund. We have made great progress in paying down the original loan of \$554,489. Only \$172,000 to go!!!

Once paid off, we will have approximately **fifty thousand dollars a year** to distribute to FPBUU for special programming and events and nonoperating building and grounds expenses. Imagine the possibilities!!!

Questions? Talk with a member of the Endowment Board. As always, you will want to check with your tax advisor or financial planner when considering such a gift.

Endowment Board: Linda Bailey-Davies, Bob Flanagan, Susan Flaws (Chair), Dick Guernsey (Recording Secretary), and Howard Hayes (Financial Secretary).



*We drink from the well that was dug for us by our spiritual ancestors.
Let us replenish the well for those who follow.*

*The LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee
of First Parish Brewster proudly invites you
to the...*



20TH
Anniversary



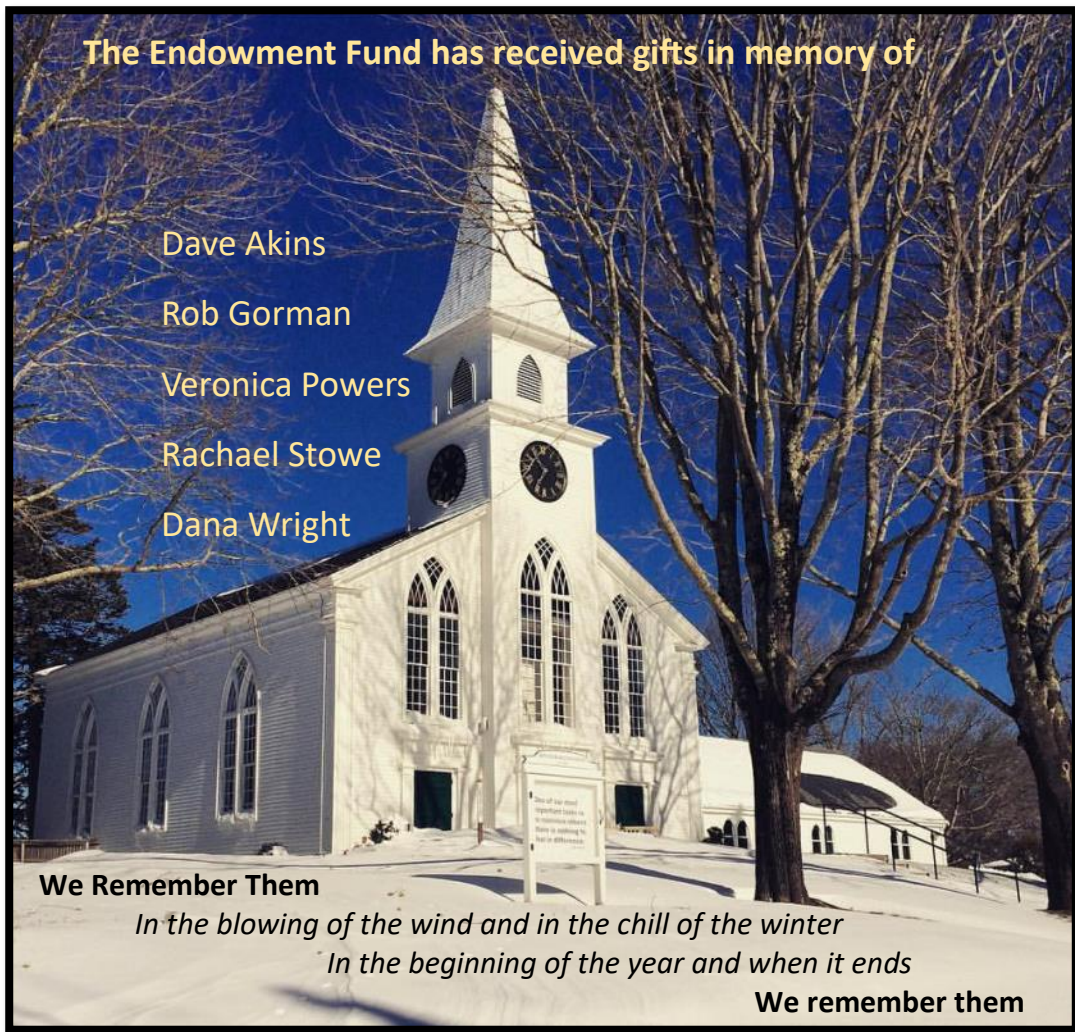
Gayla Ball

Dinner Dance

*A joyous celebration bringing together Cape Cod's
LGBTQ community & their friends and allies.*

**Saturday, February 8, 2020 5:30–11:30pm
Cape Codder Resort & Spa, Hyannis**

Look for your invitation arriving in early January



From The Office

The holidays are fast approaching, and I find myself holding a wide range of emotions. I am being called by the seasonal darkness to slow down and check in with the parts of me that need to hibernate. Called to listen to the steady in and out breath of my inner bear. This natural darkness contrasts with the bright lights we string around our houses. As we embrace what is seen and unseen, we gather together to share our joys and concerns with those we love and trust the most. More than any time of the year, I am in awe of the mysterious weaving of my life and inspired by those closest to me. These human beings serve as my guideposts as I strive to live with integrity and the willingness to make amends when I miss the mark. I notice that along the way we have been building our individual and communal resilience that is like a buoy in a tremulous time.



Let us lean in to being ungrounded together. May we be brave enough to say the words that we each need to hear but are afraid to say. May we disagree and remain kind-hearted. May we hold tight to our values but loosely enough to see them through each other's eyes. We are not in this alone, and the light that we shine together illuminates the path before us.

Blessed Be.

Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director

Church Office (508) 896-5577 1 Harwich Rd., Brewster, MA, 02631

Staff Directory

Minister: Reverend 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 & Youth Ministries: Twinks Hastings, Lifespan Faith Development Director
(Ext. 303) twinkshastings@firstparishbrewster.org

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

Ana Glig, Pianist annapiano@ymail.com

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

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

Thrift Store Manager: 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

Spring Issue (March-May)

Submissions Due - Feb 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 an answer to a question about how to use our online member directory?

The FPB Communications Office Volunteer Etc. or COVE Volunteers 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

Board of Trustees 2019-2020: Marian Brunck, Carol DiAnna (President-Elect), Katherine Farnham, Liz Gordon, Jim Hild (President), Diane Pansire (Treasurer), Frank Re , Susan Smith (Clerk), Pat Stover (Past President)

First Parish Brewster UU is governed by a Board of Trustees ,who are elected by the membership and oversee the operation of the church in compliance with the church By-laws.