

First Parish Brewster UU



Spring Quarterly 2020

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FIRST PARISH BREWSTER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
1969 MAIN ST. (6A), BREWSTER, MA 02631



EASTER SUNDAY
April 12th, 9 & 11am

Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 am

Everyone Welcome

Join us for Sunday Services at 9 & 11am
(10am Memorial through Labor Day Weekend).

Service topics can be found at fpbuu.org
for upcoming services.

Come and be inspired by our young people!

March 29th, High School Youth Group

May 17th, Coming Of Age



Stewardship

Strengthening Community



March is Stewardship month at First Parish Brewster UU.
Please consider all that your pledge of support allows us to do at
FPBUU. We appreciate your prompt response and pledge forms are
available in the Parish Room during coffee hour.

2020-2021

Stewardship Committee: Susan Flaws, Tavia Ossola, Barry Powers, Pat Stover and David Winther

From The Minister



Spring is just around the corner, can you feel it? Soon we will hear the peepers and our dreams of warmer days will be a reality. I love spring on the Cape when daffodils burst into bloom, and the trees fill up with their leaves again. As we transition out of winter, I hope that you are able to reflect on some of the insights you have gained during this season. Our theme for March is *Wisdom*, and as each season passes, I find it has new wisdom to offer me. Part of working towards *Liberation*, which is our April theme, is reflecting on lessons learned from the past, and continuing to work for change in the future. Wisdom is on the path to liberation, and they are inexorably connected together. Our month of liberation then moves to May. Our May theme is *Thresholds*. As we arrive at the cusp of summer, we will have a chance to reflect on the thresholds of our lives and the invitations within them.

May these months ahead be invitations to you, to curiosity and joy as each new flower emerges from the earth. May you be energized by Spring and all that it encompasses and share that with another.

Rev. Jessica Clay

From the Office

The bog behind Winslow House is magical. It's like another world with its water loving vegetation and the various birds that call it home. It's places like this that hold wisdom passed down through the generations. I hear it when the peepers first start to sing each spring and although I don't know exactly what they are say, I can hear the liberation in their sounds.

What I hear is the community of peepers not afraid to be heard. They had the wisdom to burrow down into the mud for the long cold winter and to return to the surface when the temperature and sun present the right circumstances. That is magic to one who doesn't have the inner voice of a peeper. For me the vegetation around the edge of the bog is a threshold that marks the sacred in the ordinary. I also know that if you really pay attention nothing is really ordinary. There are thresholds that lead to both liberation and wisdom everywhere, but we must be willing to pause to notice them. For some, there's a palpable liberation upon crossing our threshold. And although this community may mean different things to different folk, I hope you too experience the magic of being in community together.

Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director



From the Board President WHAT IS TRUTH?

One of our UU principles is “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” This has been a primary search of mine for many years. I have found in pursuing this goal, both in my Buddhist studies as well as my spiritual experiences within the UU church, an abundance of wisdom on what is that “truth to be found.” There is a Buddhist story that helps capture some of that wisdom:

One day Mara, the Evil One, was travelling through the villages of India with his attendants. He saw a man doing walking meditation whose face was lit up in wonder. The man had just discovered something on the ground in front of him. Mara's attendant asked what that was, and Mara replied, "A piece of truth." "Doesn't this bother you when someone finds a piece of truth, O Evil One?" his attendant asked. "No," Mara replied. "Right after this, they usually make a belief out of it."

The truth be known, no pun intended, truth is not something to be found, but most likely, nothing more than “seeing things as they really are.” You can't hold on to it. It's not something to be discovered around the corner. See for yourself!

Jim Hild, Board President, but mostly member of FPBUU

The *FPBUU Board of Trustees* meet 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 for the Board, please contact Jim Hild.

Board of Trustees 2019-2020: Jim Hild, President; Pat Stover, Past President; Carol DiAnna, President-Elect; Diane Pansire, Treasurer; Susan Smith, Clerk;
Members-At-Large: Marion Brunck, Katherine Farnham, Liz Gordon, Frank Re

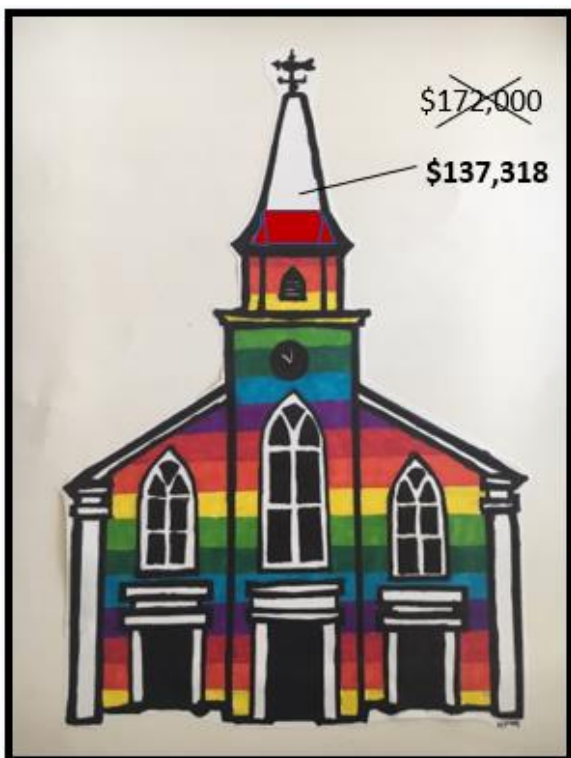
From the Endowment Board Endowment Loan Repayment Fund Update

Many thanks to all who responded to our December appeal for contributions to our Endowment Loan Repayment Fund. The balance has been reduced from **\$172,000** in December to **\$137,318** as of January 31st. That means we have paid back 75% of the original loan of \$554,489.

What's most exciting for us is, once this loan is repaid, we will have approximately **\$50,000 dollars** a year to distribute to FPBUU for special programming, events and non-operating building and grounds expenses.

Can you help with the repayment of the loan? There are many ways to make a gift to the Endowment Loan Repayment Fund including a gift of **appreciated stock** or if you are over 70 1/2 years of age, a contribution from any **required minimum distribution**. Both can have tax advantages and you will want to discuss this with your tax advisor or attorney.

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



From the Treasurer

My friends,

Here we are, looking toward spring, midway through the current fiscal year and just beginning to work on the next year's budget. The church is on sound financial footing, and we are anticipating a surplus for the current year. We have budgeted about \$365,000 in pledge income and have actual pledge commitments of \$385,000. We have earned over 100% of the *Church Fundraiser* budget line item. It looks like the split plate will fall about \$2,800 short, so we will give that careful thought as we budget for the coming year. Expenses are right on track. We have benefited from the great generosity of the congregation and staff in our innovative, generous, and skillful efforts.

Membership figures over the past few years have trended as follows: 2016 – 305, 2017 – 315, 2018 – 324, 2019 – 343. The Membership Committee has brought a renewed zest to their work. It is exciting to see this steady upward trend, and to have reason to believe there are many others who are interested in being part of our vibrant congregation. We will attract and keep new members because of our values, mission, vision, and authentic connections. Connection is natural; there is variation between people, but that innate drive brings us together. Imagine visiting a new congregation... maybe you're on vacation... imagine standing in coffee hour looking out at a sea of people, how nice it would feel for someone to notice you, to approach with a gentle warmth, eyes meeting with a soft smile, and a friendly conversation begins. Let's remember to show our generosity of spirit and take that first step.



Diane Pansire, FPBUU Treasurer



Membership Committee

First Parish Brewster UU is growing! In 2017 we had 13 new members, in 2018 we had 20, in 2019 we had 34, and 6 have joined FPB as of mid-February, 2020.

We encourage you to wear your name badge and to introduce yourself to folks you don't know. We are a welcoming congregation!

New members can sign the Membership Book during the 1st and 3rd Sundays at coffee hour. Listen for the bell!

Membership Committee Members: Rikki Bates, Nancy Berbrick, Sue Bowser, Debbi Klein, Ed Klein, Gail McAleer, Maureen Osborne, Susan Smith, Joan Sullivan



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28, 2020 in Providence, Rhode Island for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us in Providence and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

The theme for General Assembly in June 2020 is ***Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!*** We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

Registration and Housing Registration is now open at uua.org/ga. Full-time registration is \$400 for adults, \$240 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers, \$150 for off-site registrants. Register by March 15 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 16 and again on May 1. In addition to a variety of nearby hotels, attendees will also be able to book dormitory-style accommodations at two local universities. Also, UUs from local congregations will serve as host families for Home Hospitality, which is B&B style accommodations. For more information, visit uua.org/ga. Make your hotel reservation beginning March 2 at 9:00 a.m. Eastern.

FAITHIFY has a proven record of helping people get to General Assembly. Crowdfunding is a democratic, grass roots, and increasingly common tool to fund GA travel and registration expenses. When we contribute to a GA scholarship campaign, we welcome more people to be full participants in the largest gathering of our faith community. Get inspired at FAITHIFY.org.

Providence: The Creative Capital Providence combines the accessibility and friendliness of a small town with the culture and sophistication of a big city. With a thriving arts community, vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, outstanding hotels, a renowned restaurant scene, and so many things to do, Providence welcomes all Unitarian Universalists for GA 2020!

Excellent Programming GA will offer more than 100 outstanding programming selections (workshops, panel discussions, worship services, Ware Lecturer, and other presentations) over the course of five days. Programs will provide attendees with concrete and usable tools to further the work, and the balance needed to explore multiple identity-based and theological perspectives.

Like Unitarian Universalism, GA offers a wealth of theological diversity. A variety of worship choices are offered throughout GA. The Service of the Living Tradition is where we commemorate fellowshiped and credentialed religious leaders, those who have died, those who have completed active service, and welcome those who have received fellowship or credentialed status in the past year. Sunday Morning Worship at GA is a powerful, communal worship experience and is the largest annual gathering of UUs in Worship.

Financial Aid Available The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to uua.org/ga in the month of March to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).

Congregational Participation from Off-site The votes that GA delegates cast have a huge impact on Unitarian Universalism. They determine our elected leaders, amend the bylaws and rules that govern our Association, and shape the justice work that we do as a movement. If you are interested in serving as a delegate from your congregation, talk to your minister or your congregation's governing body.

Technology provides opportunities to connect on-site participants with those who cannot attend in person. GA is transforming into a hybrid meeting—incorporating off-site delegate participation, live-streaming of events, and social media to create an interactive experience for on-site and remote attendees. Off-site registrants are able to watch and ask questions in live sessions, including select workshops and business sessions. Off-site Voting Delegates are also able to propose amendments in the live business sessions, participate in debates, and vote in General Sessions.

Go to uua.org/ga to learn how congregations can register Off-site Registrants at a discounted group rate, and to find useful tips how they can gather together locally while they participate in GA.

Accessibility The UUA is committed to addressing the inclusion of all people, whatever their abilities might be, in all GA activities. Beyond the physical accessibility of the facilities we use—ramps, captioning, seating cut-outs, etc.—we endeavor to take the next step: to truly welcome people with disabilities into every facet of GA.

Children All children are welcome to attend GA events with their parents or guardians. Children who have not yet entered high school (or its equivalent) are welcome to attend GA events with their parents or guardians at no cost but are still required to register. For parents who need child care, Children's Programs are available Thursday, Friday and Saturday during GA. Register for Children's Programs by May 28 at uua.org/ga.

Youth

Attending the annual General Assembly as a high school aged youth (grades 9-12 in the preceding school year, or the equivalent for home-schooled youth) is an incredible experience. Not only do you get to worship, witness, learn and connect in a multigenerational continental community, you can get to know hundreds of other youth and participate in making an impact on the Association through the democratic process.

We Are Rooted

We Are Inspired

We Are Ready!

Women's Circle Alliance ~ Spring Programs

Wednesday, March 11

The inimitable Dave Rogers will offer a visual presentation of *The Seasons of the Garden*. Dave is the former owner of "Art in Green" and a creative artist of landscaping and gardening. (Contact: Diane Scheffler)

Wednesday, April 8

The poetry of Mary Oliver. Kathy Gulotta, Lifetime Learning Teacher, will present favorite poems from Mary Oliver's work, as well as highlights from her life! (Contact: Suzanne Sullivan)

Wednesday, May 13

King Charlemagne did it. St Francis of Assisi did it. Shirley MacLaine did it. Marilee Crocker did it too, walking 500 miles from the French border, across Spain to Santiago de Compostela. She'll share her experiences (blisters! bedbugs!) and the history of this ancient pilgrimage. (Contact: Carol Gorman)

Helping Hands & Pastoral Associates

We provide a variety of support services to members in need, such as:

- ◆ Rides to appointments, events and church
- ◆ Soup & meals for folks needing nourishment
- ◆ Visits to people in care facilities or their own homes
- ◆ Cookie visits 3 to 4 times each year
- ◆ Regular visits with a Pastoral Associate for those in need of a friendly listener
- ◆ Get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards
- ◆ Someone to talk to in times of crisis
- ◆ Publish *Joys & Concerns* in the FPBUU Weekly Angle, with permission from the individual or family member

Please contact Tavia Ossola or the office to request any of these services.

In case of a pastoral care emergency please call Rev. Jessica, Tavia or the office.

Join us for a special celebration honoring Linda Delorey during the March 22nd Sunday services.



Thrift Store...Changing of the Guard

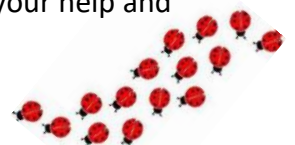
In 2004 I read in the church's weekly newsletter that the new Business Committee had proposed opening a Thrift Store. When I read that, I hurried to apply for the job only to discover that someone else already had the position. Fortunately, she decided to share the job and so began my journey with the Thrift Store. After a couple of years, Elizabeth Murray moved to North Carolina, and I was the sole manager.

Over the last fifteen years, with the help of many very dedicated volunteers, we have grown our little Thrift Store into a well-respected establishment with a large customer base. It contributes approximately \$95,000 yearly to the church's income. Three years ago, we expanded our operation to include a second store (the Annex) to accommodate the many donations of furniture and other large items that we did not have room for in the Thrift Store. This year we opened a Christmas boutique, which enabled us to sell and display all the holiday decorations we received over the year. And we are noted as having the best music of any Thrift Store on Cape.

So, it is with a full heart that I will be retiring as Thrift Store Manager at the end of March. I have loved every minute of my job even though at times it has been challenging. Every day was like Christmas-opening up the new bags and boxes of donations. Our wonderful and unique donations help keep our store a cut above the other thrift stores.

A very heartfelt thank you to all the people that have worked with me over the years. You have been the very best volunteers. I have every confidence that the store will continue to flourish with your help and continued loyalty.

Linda Delorey, Thrift Store Manager





Children and Youth Ministries

I believe that all of life is a classroom and that learning happens constantly – whether formally or informally and teachable moments can happen at any time. As an educator, I try and embrace them, pausing a well thought out curriculum plan to be in the moment with whatever it is that is happening, but recently I fell short.

During the Time For All Ages on Martin Luther King weekend, I was showing pictures of Youth Activists who are people of color, making the point that we have all heard of Greta Thunberg a heroine for sure, but there are many youth of color who are doing equally great work and yet are unknown because they are not uplifted in the media or on social media. As I was showing the pictures of Mari Copeny and Isra Hirsi, one of our children innocently said that’s the same person, and an awkward giggle spread through the Sanctuary. I said something along the lines of “Nope; they are two different people” and moved on. I wish I had taken a moment to sit in my discomfort and reacted differently.

People of color being mistaken for each other based purely on their skin color is a micro-aggression that occurs repeatedly. It is highly researched that from a young age, we learn to recognize the difference between people in our own race but have a harder time with people from other races.

I wish I had pulled the photos back out, and gently helped our children see the differences between the two youth, one of whom is ten and one who is 16. I wish I had said that very often people who are a different color from us get mistaken for each other even though they don’t look much alike and it's important for us to really pay attention to that. These are conversations that are important for us to be having with our children from a young age.

Beloved Conversations has taught me that the process of dismantling White Supremacy is messy, imperfect, and lifelong work, that it’s our job as white people to do the work of education and that is something I am committed to getting better at.

Twinks Hastings, Director Lifespan Faith Development



UU the VOTE

The stakes couldn't be higher in the 2020 elections. All our values, our work for justice, the communities we love, and beloved community we seek to create are under attack. Our religious community must speak with moral courage and act with prophetic clarity and determination in the 2020 electoral cycle.

UUtheVote is a national movement. Here at First Parish, we are taking action by writing letters and postcards to GetOutTheVote (GOTV) in key national elections swing states. We are planning to travel to nearby swing states, joining with other UU churches to help them GOTV. UUtheVote meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 4 PM in Fellowship Hall starting March 8. For planning purposes, please RSVP to Susan Smith at susan.t.smi@gmail.com. #VoteLove.

For a short video that lifts up Francis Ellen Harper, the Unitarian who advocated as both a suffragist and an abolitionist, and Rev. James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo, two UUs killed during their work supporting the Civil Rights movement go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mannOmmad1&feature=youtu.be>.

Spring into Auction!

JUNE 7th ----- Mark the date for this year's annual spring fundraising event!!

The Spring Auction is our biggest fundraiser and traditionally focuses on the contributions from within our church community. If you are new to FPBUU or are a seasoned member, this is a must attend event!! It is never too early to get the creative juices flowing or the wheels turning to think of how you may be able to donate your talent or time. Here is an A to Z list of ideas to help you come up with fun ways to participate.

- A** – Afternoon Tea - Art in Action - Ace of Baking
- B** – Backyard Fun - Beach Bums - Board Games - Book Lover's - Birds, Bee's and Butterflies
- C** – Camping In – Care Package – Chocolate Lovers – Cat Pamper – Cooking Classes
- D** – Date Night – Delicious Delights – Dog Day Afternoon – Down By the Sea
- E** – Everything's Coming Up Roses
- F** – Fair Trade Basket – Family Fun Pack – Fitness Fun – Flower Garden – Foodie Festival
- G** – Game On – Garden Delights – Girl Power – Good Times – Great Outdoors – Green Thumb
- H** – Hammer Time – Health Food – Happy Hour – Herb Garden
- I** – Ice Cream Social – It's a Wrap
- J** – Jewel Of The Nile – Jogger's Basket – Just Desserts
- K** – Keep Calm – Kids Cookies – Knit Wit
- L** – Live To Be Fit – Let Them Eat Cake
- M** – Mind, Body & Spirit – Movie Madness
- N** – Nature's Way – Night Out
- O** – Organic Garden
- P** – Pampered Pet – Patio & Deck – Puzzle Lovers – Passion For Pasta – Photography Class
- Q** – Queen For A Day – Quilter's Basket
- R** – Rainy Day – Road Trip
- S** – Sail Away – Sew What – Shape Up – Soup For The Soul
- T** – Take It Easy – Taste Of ? - Tea Time Basket – Travel
- U** – U Pick It Christmas Card Photo Shoot
- V** – Vineyards & More
- W** – Weekend Getaway – Wine & Cheese
- X** – Xtreme Sports
- Y** – Yoga – You Only Live Once
- Z** – Zumba Fitness – Zombie Survival Kit



If you have donated in the past, we thank you for your generous contributions and hope you will consider doing so again this year. If you have not previously donated, we ask that you be creative and help in any way you can. **We are also looking for people to come on board and help facilitate this year's auction. If you like to party plan, then this is the event for you!!!!** (I can guarantee Auction meetings will be fun!)

Be on the look out for more information and details in the near future!! If you have any questions, or some great ideas, please contact debbiklein@comcast.net or 508.783.1427



Usually, when I write to you, I do my best to share a story that expresses some meaning behind or beneath the surface, as it were, of the three themes we will be exploring together in small groups and in worship. But this time I got stuck! Not in a bad way, though. I looked at all of them and I have become focused, at the expense of the others, on wisdom! We are blessed to be in the company of many wizened ones here at First Parish Brewster. Often, we attribute that state to age and experience, thinking the two synonymous. If that is the case then we are in good shape, to be sure! We say, when we hear a profound insight from a younger person, that they are “wise beyond their years.” We are mistaken, however, if we eschew the wisdom that is inherent in each of us from birth.

Wisdom, we are told, was there at the beginning; bound up in creation itself. It resides in the spark of the divine that dwells in each of our heart centers. The capacity for wisdom to be expressed exists right alongside our ability to love. When allowed to work in concert they reveal a greater truth than either would on its own. Together they are the seeds of our survival.

In my days at WE CAN, I open myself to the wisdom and love that arrive on our doorstep, carried in by women who are struggling or hurting; carried, too, by those who freely offer their assistance; both from the wellspring of their experiences. I believe that all of the women we serve are possessed of what they need to move through life’s transitions because that wisdom lives within them, whether they are aware of it or not. Our work is to make a safe space for the wisdom and love that is tucked away, hidden and protected, to make its way to the surface and guide a woman home to her best self.

May our work, together, be much the same, as we encounter both strangers and friends on the journey.

Blessed be,
Rev. Tracy Johnson, Community Minister

Save the Date for our Spring Concert!



Friday, May 8th at 7:30PM

Common Voices Women's Chorus Directed by Jane Lowey

**Join us in the Sanctuary for a celebration of Women's Voices
and the Centennial of the 19th Amendment.**

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, DLRE 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) elliottgrunes@gmail.com

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

Thrift Store Manager: Linda Delorey (through March 31st) Celine Crook (April 1st)
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**