

First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist

Fall Quarterly 2020

Deep Listening, Renewal, Healing



Photo by [frank mckenna](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By Narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

Prayer At Sunrise by James Weldon Johnson (See Page 2 for Bio)

About the front cover's contribution author, James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938).

James Weldon Johnson was an early civil rights activist, poet, novelist and songwriter of such song as "Lift Every Voice and Sing". Johnson was a lawyer, foreign nation consul for the United States in Venezuela and Nicaragua, served as chief executive of the NAACP and one of the leading figures of the Harlem Renaissance. In 1904, Johnson served as treasurer of the Colored Republican Club. He believed that it was important for blacks to both produce great art and literature as well as demonstrate their intellectual equality in America.



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Administration and Finance Ministries

Being present is my highest priority these days. To do this, I have to slow down, breathe deeply, and be patient with the world and myself. Some days this is more challenging than others. Not looking too far ahead or back but letting myself be with what is, this strange reality of a world pandemic and deep unrest in my country.

The themes for the next three months go hand in hand with my internal work to be present because if I am distracted, I will miss what I need to hear. And what I have come to find is that if I let go of what I am sure of and open to the unknown, healing and renewal happen much more effortlessly. I do like a plan, but often life has its own plan that I am not privy to until I am well along the way.

For over five and a half years, I have served this church as your Administration and Finance Director, and I appreciate how our work together continues to shape me. May this community be a safe place for us to loosen our grip on how we want things to be and truly feel the embrace of being together.

Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director



FALL VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Please join us Sunday mornings on Zoom, as we quiet our minds and open our hearts for worship. We use the same link each week for our online worship service.

Be sure to have a chalice nearby!

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/899300451>

Meeting ID: 899 300 451

or via phone 1 301 715 8592 (Meeting ID: 899 300 451)

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Ingathering Sunday

Rev Jessica Clay

Twinks Hastings, Director, Lifespan Religious Education

Join us for this service where we celebrate with the Aug 22 video of the *Gathering of the Waters Ceremony* and begin the church year together.

Wednesday Vespers Service, 6:30 pm

Join us for each Wednesday for this 30-minute contemplative service with readings and music.

A place of rest and renewal for all who need it.

<https://zoom.us/j/110279689>

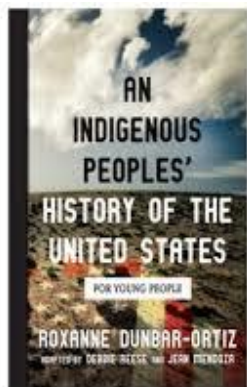
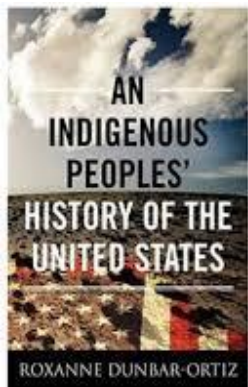
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One tap mobile +16468769923,,110279689#

For more upcoming services information, please go to fpbuu.org/worship/upcoming-services or our Weekly Angles.

- ◆ Sept 20 - **Lessons from the Pandemic**
- ◆ Sept 27 - **Exploring Renewal** with Margaret Rice Moir
- ◆ Oct 4 - **Animal Blessings.** Join us for our annual pet blessing service. Email cove@firstparishbrewster.org to register to bless your pet during the service. If your pet has passed away in the last year, please send their picture to revjessica@firstparishbrewster.org
- ◆ Oct 10 - **No service.**
- ◆ Oct 18 - **Bring a Friend Sunday.** This is the Sunday to invite all of your friends to join us online! This service will include a *New Member Recognition Ceremony.*
- ◆ Oct 25 - **Blessings of the Ancestors**
- ◆ Nov 1 - **Healing Democracy**
- ◆ Nov 8 - **Now What?**
- ◆ Nov 15 - **Decolonizing Wealth**
- ◆ Nov 22 - **Broken Promises**
- ◆ Nov 29 - **No service**

UU Common Read (DATE CHANGE) - Sept 28th



Please join us for a discussion on the UU Common Read books “An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and “An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States For Young People” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese. Rev Jessica will be leading the discussion on Monday, September 28st from 6-7:30 pm on Zoom. If you are looking for meaningful reading, either of these books is a great choice, especially since this year is the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of the Plymouth Colony.

Email Rev Jessica at revjessica@firstparishbrewster.org to register for our Sept. 28st discussion.

From The Minister

We are now entering the sixth month of this Pandemic. Our spirits are weary with all that we are carrying. I hope each of you reading this was able to take some time this summer for rest and renewal. Our September theme is renewal, and how fitting that is for right now. My garden has brought me a lot of renewal this summer, as have our beautiful beaches. I have enjoyed exploring many different beaches and bodies of water in this beautiful place where we are so lucky to live.

Our October theme is deep listening; we will explore the gifts that deep listening can bring to us. As this time of online church continues, what a gift it has been to have backyard visits, phone calls, and Zoom calls with many of you. What has resonated throughout is how resilient this community is. I hope each of you has reached out to those you love and care for during this time to offer them deep listening as well.

In November, our theme is healing. Healing is no passive act; it requires a willingness and openness on all levels. We each carry our wounds from our childhood and relationships; healing invites us to let go and move on in the ways we are able. There are societal wounds that we inherit as well. This month we will explore the legacy of colonialism and what that asks of us.

Know that we are all in this together, though we cannot all gather safely at this time. I am carrying you in my heart and am here if you need me. I look forward to seeing your beautiful faces each Sunday at 10 am and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm.

Take good care and know that you are loved.

Rev Jessica Clay

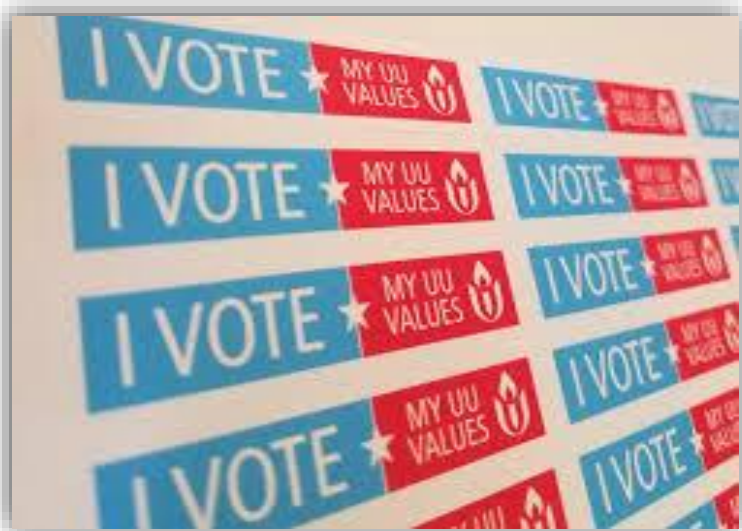


UU the VOTE

Our First Parish Brewster UUtheVote mighty team is now 80 strong, writing letters and postcards to *GetOutTheVote*. This 2020 election is critical, and strong voter participation is crucial for free and fair elections. Currently, the group is partnering with *Vote Forward* to write letters and *Reclaim Our Vote* to write bilingual postcards to voters who have been taken off the rolls. We have applied to the UUA for a small grant to help us defray the cost of postage and supplies.

#VoteLove

Susan Smith & Diane Pansire



Helping Hands and Pastoral Care

The Helping Hands and Pastoral Associates have found this period to be rewarding and, at the same time, isolating. We have tried to reach out by phone to every member of the congregation; we have delivered puzzles, meals and goodies. Our volunteers have continued to provide rides for people going to a variety of appointments. We have found folks to help one another with yardwork, dump runs, and grocery shopping. With every request, we have attempted to help people find the resources they were looking for. We've connected people with the Alzheimer's support group as well as therapists.



A simple phone call to the office 508-896-5577 or Tavia Ossola can put you in touch with the services that you need. It's critical for each of us to assume some responsibility to try to keep in contact with those that we don't regularly see on Zoom or in the community. During these trying times, just chatting with somebody can be immensely comforting for someone alone.

A sincere thank you to all of the volunteers who have continued to keep in contact with members, to provide services, and to offer deep listening to people.

Tavia Ossola



Covenant Groups comprise 8-10 people who meet monthly to share insights and observations on a variety of themes provided by the UUA "Soul Matters" curriculum.

Through the practice of "deep listening," we listen to one another without interruption, critique, response, offering advice or crosstalk, we grow to form lasting connections while focusing on each month's spiritual theme. Deep listening is transformative, creating a safe environment of profound trust, caring, and belonging.

2020-2021 themes include Deep Listening, Healing, Stillness, Imagination, Beloved Community, Commitment, Becoming, Story, and Play.

Each group has two trained facilitators who themselves meet monthly to discuss how to conduct, deepen, and expand their groups. Several groups continued meeting on Zoom over the summer, and we are learning how to adapt to virtual meetings. Facilitators are working toward the goal of making Covenant Groups an even more vital part of worship in the COVID-19 era. For those who miss the intimacy of in-person FPBUU gatherings, Zoom Covenant Groups are a great option! For more information on how you can be more connected within our FPB Community go to <https://fpbuu.org/connections/covenant-groups/>

Maureen Osborne, Chair

From the Board of Trustees

Recently, at the FPBUU Board retreat, Board members spent four Zoom hours together listening and sharing, getting to know one another, and working together to develop goals and objectives that will hopefully fulfill the FPBUU's mission of *opening hearts, growing souls and turning love into justice*. The theme of FPBUU's Fall Angle is *Deep Listening, Renewal, and Healing*, and the Board retreat most definitely achieved that.

However, I recently came across an article in the Washington Post that I feel is important to mention. The article's title is "Time to Ditch Toxic Positivity: Experts Say – It's okay not to be okay." According to the report - "in the midst of a raging pandemic and widespread social unrest these days, it can feel as if reassuring platitudes are inescapable."

"Everything will be fine." "It could be worse." "Look on the bright side."

But as well-intentioned as those who lean on such phrases may be, experts are cautioning against going overboard with the "good vibes only" trend. Too much-forced positivity is not just unhelpful, they say — it's toxic. While cultivating a positive mindset is a powerful coping mechanism, toxic positivity stems from the idea that the best or only way to cope with a bad situation is to put a positive spin on it and not dwell on the negative. It results from our tendency to undervalue negative emotional experiences and overvalue positive ones."

Reading this article helped me to realize that it's so important to talk about our negative reactions. So as we move forward through this pandemic, I hope we all understand that at times it's okay not to feel okay.

Stay safe,

Carol DiAnna, President of FPBUU Board of Trustees

The *FPBUU Board of Trustees* meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm via Zoom and unless they are in executive session, all are welcome to attend. If you wish to attend or have a concern to bring to the Board, contact Carol DiAnna.

Board of Trustees 2020-21

Carol DiAnna, President,
Jim Hild, Past President,
Susan Smith, President-elect,
Diane Pansire, Treasurer,
Carol Yerby, Clerk
Members-At-Large:
Katharine Farnham,
Tom O'Brien,
Frank Re,
Bill Roberts

The Brewster Thrift Store

We are winding down from the height of summer, and the Thrift Store is still going strong!

We have been very busy servicing so many customers, we often have a line out the door. We are so grateful to be open and want to remind everyone that when you support the Thrift Store, you are supporting our church and our community. There are many ways to help out! Visit our store and see what treasures await! You never know what you will find. We also have a few spots open for volunteering.

Donations are appreciated. We are accepting donations Fridays from 10 am to noon. We ask that you bring in no more than three bags or boxes at a time and that all clothing is laundered before drop off. We are unable to accept linens or furniture at this time. Thank you for all of your support!

Celine Crook, Manager



FPBUU Committee Contacts List ~ 2020

Contact information is available in Breeze,
our on-line member directory.

You may also contact the FPBUU office at (508) 896-5577.

Administration and Finance: Karena Stroh
Board of Trustees: Carol DiAnna
Building a Bigger Table: Rick Draper
Building Maintenance Committee: Judy Fenner
Children and Youth Ministries Committee: Elenita Muñiz
COVE (office volunteers) Team: Karena Stroh
Covenant Groups: Maureen Osborne
Endowment Board: Howard Hayes
Film and Dinner Series: Judy Jollett
Fundraising Team: Judy Harrison
Finance Committee: Diane Pansire
Helping Hands/Pastoral Care: Tavia Ossola & Rev Jessica Clay
Landscape Committee: Liz Gordon
Leadership Development Committee: Judy Harrison
Lifespan Religious Education Ministries: Twinks Hastings
Membership Committee: Susan Smith
Music Ministry: Danica Buckley
One Earth One People/Racial Justice Committee: Sue Trask
Policy Committee: Karen Witting
Prayer Shawl Ministry: Susan Smith
Right Relations Team: Chuck Madansky
Safe Congregation Committee: Rev Jessica Clay
(Committee on) Shared Ministry: Tavia Ossola
Social Justice Committee: Katharine Farnham
Stewardship Committee: Susan Flaws/Tavia Ossola
UU Connections Committee: Carol Ann Yeaple
UUSC Fair Trade Sales: Mary Wallace
LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee: Linda Bailey-Davies
Women's Circle Alliance: Sue Bowser
Worship Associates: Rev Jessica Clay



Lifespan Religious Education Ministries

COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. In doing so, it has shaken loose many ideas that no-one would have thought imaginable in February. Who would have thought that video editing would become a large part of our jobs, or that teaching an RE lesson to a four-year-old was possible over Zoom? Who would have thought that working from home was something many folks could do, or that our many FPB Zoom offerings and chats have led to friendships developing that might never have happened in the chaos of coffee hour in the Parish Room?

I certainly would never have imagined having a kid join us for RE from Scotland every week, or that I would be teaching Sex-Ed to students from many congregations around the USA, and yet here we are. Do not get me wrong; I've struggled with the sadness and loneliness that COVID-19 has brought upon us, and I am not trying to sugar coat this as the best time ever. I know for many people, COVID-19 has had a long-lasting and devastating effect. I am, however, trying to ground myself in the opportunities that this time is giving me because when I get lost in the missed opportunities, I get stuck.

As we move into this new church year, Religious Education is going to look and feel different. Still, I am positive that the faith development opportunities for all ages this year at FPB are going to help us deepen our connection to what is important, and open our hearts to the here and now. I invite you to take a risk and join in one of our many offerings this year.

I look forward to learning and growing with you all,

Twinks Hastings, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



FPBUU 2020

Holiday Fair

It's Coming!!!

This year we will be bringing the FPBUU Holiday Fair to YOU! Have you started getting your gift list organized? How about we help you cross off some of the items on your shopping list!

The FPBUU Holiday Fair will be offering crafts, baked goods, gift baskets, goodies for your pet, and knit goods, to name a few. We intend to have some "set price" pre-ordering for pies, cookie assortments, pet goodies, etc. You will be able to pre-order and have these items available for pick up later in December. Plus, we will have an assortment of craft items, gift baskets, canned goods, etc. for the online bidding event.

Please mark your calendars for online bidding which begins November 28 and ends with our Live Fair Finale on Saturday, December 5.

How can you be part of this cheery event? We are looking for "Elves" to help bake cookies (for people and fur babies!) and pies, to offer holiday-themed gift items and to knit mittens, scarves, etc.

If you would like to sign up to be an Elf, have some creative ideas you would like to include in this event, or have any questions you would like answered, please contact Debbi Klein at debbiklein@comcast.net.

Children and Youth Ministries ~ 2020-2021 Zoom Programing

- **Nursery:** No classes or gatherings currently scheduled.
- **Chalice Children** (Kindergarten -2nd grade): Monthly Zoom gathering
- **Elementary** (3rd-5/6th grade): Weekly Zoom gatherings, Disney Shorts thru U.U. eyes
- **Middle School Group:** Weekly Zoom gatherings
- **High School Youth Group:** Weekly Zoom gatherings

More details and Zoom links will be posted to:

<https://fpbuu.org/religious-education/children-and-youth-ministries/>

and in the Weekly Angle.



Adult Faith Development Classes Fall 2020

Coming of Age for Adults will be offered on **Tuesdays 6:30-8 pm.**

Oct 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

Nov 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

Every time our youth read their credos at our coming of age service, many adults say I wish I had this program when I was growing up. Well, now is your chance. This 8-week creative and FUN Zoom class will result in you creating your credo of faith. Through journaling, arts, conversations, and sharing, we will tackle the deep topics of life. There will be many activities during the class that are away from your screen, so you won't get zoomed out if you participate.

To register contact Twinks at Twinkshastings@firstparishbrewster.org

UU Elevator Speech Class with Rev Jessica Saturday October 17th 9-1 pm on Zoom



UU Elevator Speech class will guide participants through developing a short speech about our Unitarian Universalist faith. It is called an “elevator speech” because, on an elevator ride when someone asks you “What is Unitarian Universalism?” you only have a short time to make a meaningful statement! This class helps participants feel confident about articulating Unitarian Universalism, empowering them and helping them feel ownership. Please email revjessica@firstparishbrewster.org to sign up.

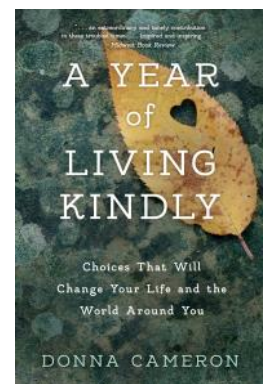
A Year of Living Kindly Book Club

Tuesdays for 6 weeks, Oct 6th through Nov 10th 2 to 3 pm on Zoom

“Most of us aspire to be kind. But being kind isn’t always easy. Our best intentions often fade when the realities of our daily life intrude: telemarketers, crowded spaces, time constraints, and our ineptness. Being kind when we don’t feel like it, or when all of our buttons are being pushed, is hard. But that’s also when it’s most needed...Want to change your life and also change the world? It begins with choosing kindness.” -from *A Year of Living Kindly*

The COVE Team has been reading *A Year of Living Kindly* by Donna Cameron. The chapters are short and have made for great discussion at our COVE Meetings. We have enjoyed it so much that we thought others would enjoy it too.

If you are interested, email Marilyn McDermott at mmcd9@comcast.net.



An Eighth Principle for UU's

*"We, the member congregations of the UUA, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our **actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.**"*

This is the proposed UU 8th Principle. At General Assembly, this principle was a constant focus, especially given all that is happening in our country around racism and white privilege. Paula Cole Jones, one of the original authors of the principle, suggested it might even be better as a preface to our Principles, rather than an addendum.

But wait, isn't this already covered in the other seven principles? If we took the time to sit with each of them, would we see **actions that accountably dismantle oppression**?

People used to ask why we needed to become a Welcoming Congregation -- didn't we already welcome everyone? Maybe, but LGBT folks had been **specifically prohibited** from attending Church, specifically un-welcomed. So, the **action** was needed to **accountably dismantle** the **oppression** of homophobia.

We invite all FPB folks to join us in deep reflection about how our existing seven principles reflect **actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions** -- or don't.

1
Everyone is important

2
Everyone should be treated fairly and kindly

3
We should accept one another and keep learning together

4
Everyone must be free to search for what is true and right in life

5
Everyone should have a vote about the things that concern them

6
We must work for a peaceful, fair, and free world

7
We must care for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things

8
We must work together for diversity and against racism & oppression

Principles 1-7 based on UUA Principles in Simpler Language
8th Principle language by Nico Van Ostrand

8th Principle Working Group: Ed Klein, Elenita Muñiz, Tom O'Brien, Rosanne Shapiro

FUN(d) Raising

As you know, all our day to day interactions have been touched by the pandemic making life more complicated – and that is especially true when it comes to meeting the goals of the FUN(d) Raising Team. And while you may think that raising "dollars" is our obvious focus, it is building community and having fun, which are two of our main priorities. Clearly, after months of virtual worship and social distancing, these two goals have become more important than ever! So, let's take a look at how we are doing.

Our first post COVID-19 event was the FPB Garden Tour. Gratitude to the gardeners, and especially Susan Smith, Liz Gordon, Tavia Ossola and Dave Rogers, who organized and planned it all. This included weeding, planting, advertising, and recruiting their own docents. Much thought was put into making this event safe. Participants were asked to pre-register and were given time slots to create an orderly flow and limit group size. Naturally, masks were required. And what a joy our first face to face seeing of each other was – and in such beautiful surroundings!! Someone said that it was like an extended coffee hour. Eyes were seen smiling everywhere, and we all felt the love.

Our second event was our online version of the Spring Auction, which included a "live auction" portion and adaptations to our typical social offerings. Kudos to Deb Klein who agreed to take this on and single-handedly worked with Karena Stroh to learn the program, solicit donated items from the congregation, catalog the goods we bid on through the week and played the role of the auctioneer with all the items displayed on the island in her kitchen as she hawked items without getting any feedback from her audience – a feat difficult for even a seasoned auctioneer. In her role, Deb got to learn a little FPB culture as well when she experienced the bidding frenzy over Judy Jollett's crab cakes. Deb's goal was to offer fun – which she both gave and had. So much so that she is willing to do it again!

And now here we are, looking at event #3 – an adapted version of our Holiday Fair. Outreach to crafters and bakers went out in mid- August as a way to get the congregation invested early by producing labors of love for each other through wares that may surprise. What better way to while away those homebound hours? And though the fundraising team is still envisioning the Fair, there just may be elves delivering cookies this year. That certainly is bound to bring a smile!

What will be next? Who knows! Why don't you join us as we try to think outside the box to build community and fun at this critical time? There's always room for one more.

Judy Harrison, Chair



From the Treasurer

The themes for this Quarterly Angle are "Renewal," "Deep Listening," and "Healing." With those themes, I cannot help but reflect on the budget discussion at our most recent Annual Meeting. By most standards, it was a failure. I own my part in that, and not from a place of guilt or shame, but curiosity and love. I seek healing around it, and some congregants need healing too. For most, it sounds like, "Can we please not do that again?" and we promise, the answer is "Yes." For others, some injuries are not yet healed. I want us to communicate openly and honestly with one another, and simultaneously respect the needs and time of everyone involved. When things don't go well, one way I keep an open heart is to accept it fully by saying, "That was 'exactly' what I needed in order to grow." With an open heart, I, and we, can find a fresh new way forward that is better than before. The past need not be buried to time, nor repeated in the future. As part of your FPB leadership, I will continue to explore how we can engage in congregational communication that is healthy, inclusive, and fruitful. As Maya Angelou said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

Diane Pansire, FPBUU Treasurer



From the Endowment Board

For the past 17 years, the Endowment Fund has provided annual financial support for FPB special programming and the enhancement of the buildings and grounds of our campus. As of June 30, 2020, this totaled \$227,488.

At our annual meeting this June, the congregation voted by a two-thirds majority to authorize the disbursement of up to \$110,000, if needed, from the Endowment Fund for "the operating expenses of First Parish Brewster in FY2021." (Note: This is \$77,550 over the 5% distribution already permitted under the By-laws.) This will offer the financial support needed to provide for our dedicated staff and maintain our programs during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are grateful to all those who have contributed so generously to the Endowment Fund over the years. It is these gifts which allow us to support our beloved church today. Thank you for your past and continued generosity.

Howard Hayes, Endowment Board Chair



Membership: News & "About Me" Announcement

Becoming a new member at First Parish continues despite the pandemic and our campus being closed. Visitors join us at Sunday worship, Wednesday's Vespers, and other church activities. People are in need of connection particularly at this time, and the Membership Committee urges all in our beloved community to extend a welcome to those who find us, by whatever means. Our next New Member Recognition will take place on Zoom on Sunday, October 4th.

The Membership Committee is excited to announce **About Me**, a new initiative to help members and especially new members feel more welcome and connected. To post your 3-4 sentence bio on Breeze, simply fill out the "About Me" section in this digital form, <https://fpbuu.breezechms.com/form/d0113928>. If you have any questions about this you can also contact Maureen Osborne DocOsbo@gmail.com.



Also, if you do not have a picture on your page, please send in a headshot, taken on your phone in landscape mode, with your name in the subject line, and send to cove@firstparishbrewster.org.

Committee members: Rikki Bates, Marcia Kielb, Debbi Klein, Ed Klein, Maureen Osborne, Karen Pierson, Susan Smith, Joan Sullivan

One Earth One People/Racial Justice

Our Committee is working to add Barnstable, Dennis, Wellfleet, and Truro to the Cape towns that passed articles supporting the state resolution to change the MA flag and seal. Most town meetings have been postponed until fall. After 34 years, this current resolution just passed unanimously in the State Senate and is now awaiting the House of Representatives vote. We are writing letters to involved Senators and Representatives.

We write to our legislators in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and show our support of this effort through our presence at demonstrations/marches.

We support the Wampanoag against the Department of the Interior, which revoked the 2015 decision to place 300 acres of land in trust for the Wampanoags, with a declaration of the lands as their sovereign reservation. The US House of Representatives just passed legislation to prevent the Interior agency from rescinding the Wampanoag land trust and their sovereign rights. Letters from committee members and others have been sent to challenge or support those involved.

Thus, we open hearts, grow souls, and turn love into justice. We seek to heal the human family. We welcome and appreciate the interest of anyone who would share in our efforts.

Sue Trask, Committee Contact

In Harmony - Music Ministries

Pandemic music-making is an enormous challenge, especially for vocal/choral folks and those who play wind instruments, as aerosols are the primary form of transmission of COVID-19. String and keyboard players have it a little easier, though performances in public are substantially curtailed.

I have felt deep grief for choirs and instrumentalists with whom I regularly work with at First Parish Brewster and elsewhere. Spring Music Sunday with Choir and Ensemble of First Parish Brewster was to be a presentation of the 8 Principles through a Broadway extravaganza - a morning of moving and rollicking show tunes, which speak to renewal, deep listening, and healing.

I was to have conducted a dream concert this past spring – “Fanny and Felix: Great Works of the Mendelssohns,” with two choruses and full orchestra.

We musicians have to summon the strength to keep the healing power of music alive online. The Choir rehearses on Zoom and will make virtual choir recordings for services. We invite more folks to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.

If you sing or play an instrument or do both and are interested in contributing music for our services, please email me at danicabuckley@firstparishbrewster.org.

Danica A. Buckley, Music Director



Social Justice Committee

In 2018 the Social Justice Committee supported the idea of using the **8th Principle** to focus our work." The FPBUU Social Justice Committee affirms and promotes journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural beloved community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." If you are interested in FPBUU adopting the 8th Principle, you can contact Rosanne Shapiro at lunaseacreation@comcast.net.

Last year we were involved in educating ourselves about **white privilege** in the *Beloved Conversations* program. We actively supported the Wampanoag, attending town meetings and a hearing at the State House, encouraging lawmakers to change the state flag and seal. The work to support the Wampanoag is ongoing. Susan Trask (suescape@comcast.net) is the contact person, if you are interested in helping.

Writing postcards for **UU the Vote** and letters for **Vote Forward**, we encouraged people to vote in the crucial 2020 election. Let Susan Smith (Susan.t.smi@gmail.com) if you would like to become involved with UU the Vote.

A **Reparation Working Group** is forming. It will focus on African chattel slavery as it might appear in FPB's history. You can contact Katharine Farnham, at kfarnham51@gmail.com with Social Justice concerns.

Katharine Farnham, Chair

Committee on Shared Ministry

With the development of the COVID-19 crisis, our Committee has been challenged in much of the same way that we have seen in every level of human interrelationships. Without clear information and walking on untrodden ground, we met through monthly Zoom meetings. We agreed to be supportive in erring on the side of safety in guiding the policies of closing the property and putting the health of the congregation as a top priority. It was helpful having Marie Hartley, a member of the COVID-19 Task Force, present to give guidance on the updated medical information as it became available.

We are, in hindsight, relieved that caution was justified, as difficult as it has been to be forced to adapt to distanced relations and interactions. The creativity that Reverend Jessica and the Board have demonstrated is admirable given the unique challenge of these times and the intimate nature of shared worship in a spiritual community.

This challenge was revealed in the unfortunate way in which the decision not to renew the contract of the OMG Musical Group was executed. Impactful decisions involving valued community members are never easy, and it would have been much preferable to have been handled in a more transparent, direct, and sensitive manner rather than through email. We are hopeful that healing can be done in this area and that lessons can be learned that the value and dignity of each person who brings their gifts to FPB receive the appreciation and respect that they deserve.

Don Friend, Chair

Committee members: Don Friend, Marie Hartley, Tavia Ossola, Barry Powers, Annette Winther

How to Benefit Equal Exchange and Fair Trade During Covid

Our future sales, during the pandemic, will be done by ordering cases of products through me. (Mary Wallace) Bundling your needs with others makes it possible to order cases and to meet the \$75.00 requirement for free shipping. Please email marywallace3@gmail.com, text or call (additional contact info can be found in Breeze) your needs. Even if you only want one package of coffee, or one bag of cashews. When I have enough orders to make a case I will order and let you know when it arrives. At the August 22 Saturday drop off/ pick up, people asked for enough that I can now order 4 cases and we almost sold out of what we had available. We will hold off on ordering more chocolate until late September as it costs extra to keep it cold. When the orders arrive I can deliver them to you or you can visit me in Brewster to pick them up.

Bethany McGinnis from Equal exchange sent us this message, "The purchase of coffee at Equal Exchange is down by over 38,000 pounds compared to this time last year due to COVID-19. This loss of volume is having a real impact on Equal Exchange and its farmer partners. Small-scale farmers need your help more than ever during the pandemic." We are still one of their top customers, and I hope we will be able to keep this going. Thanks for your continued support .

Mary Wallace, Coordinator



Church Office (508) 896-5577 messages checked daily, Mon-Fri

Staff Directory

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

Administration and Finance Ministries:

Karena Stroh, Director (Ext. 304) karena@firstparishbrewster.org

Celine Crook, Thrift Store Manager (508) 896-8744 celine@firstparishbrewster.org

Jennie Mignone, Sexton/Videographer jennie@firstparishbrewster.org

Ted Jalowick, Bookkeeper (Ext. 305) ted@firstparishbrewster.org

Lifespan Religious Education Ministries (includes CYM):

Twinks Hastings, Director twinks@firstparishbrewster.org

Music Ministries

Danica Buckley, Director danica@firstparishbrewster.org

Ana Glig, Pianist anapiano@ymail.com

Website/ Social Media

fpbuu.org Facebook.com/fpbuu



Photo by [David Menidrey](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Miss stopping by the office?

Need help with our online directory, online donations, checking your pledge, finding someone's contact info or any other questions you might have?

The FPB Communications Office Volunteers Etc. (COVE) are here to support the administrative work of the church. Stop by the **Thursday Virtual Open Office Hour**, scheduled for September, **10-11 am** and let us know how we can help!

<https://zoom.us/j/649089576>

Meeting ID: 649 089 576

One tap mobile +13017158592,,649089576#

Deadline Reminders

FPBUU Winter Angle

Due November 1st, 2020

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