

FIRST PARISH BREWSTER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WINTER ANGLE 2020 -2021

Special Paper Edition

December: *Stillness*

The practice of turning off
voices that aren't ours.
The practice of making space
for deeper truth to speak.
The practice of finding peace.



January: *Imagination*

The practice of waking
up to possibility.
The healing practice of putting
ourselves in other people's shoes.
The practice of allowing
hope to widen our view.

February: *Beloved Community*

The practice of bending the arc of
the universe toward justice.
The practice of dismantling the
structures that divide us.
The practice of transforming
opponents into friends.



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Community Survey Results

Thank you all who participated in our recent community survey. This survey helps us plan for the coming months and get a wider perspective on what the needs of the congregation are at this time.

What we heard from you includes:

- * Physical and/or mental health are of significant concern along with isolation/loneliness, depression and anxiety.
- * Practices that have been the most helpful during this time include connecting with others in person and online, physical exercise, spending time in nature, watching TV and movies, and reading.
- * You miss each other and First Parish Brewster.
- * You appreciate the work that the staff and leadership are doing to keep people supported and connected.

Brewster Thrift Store and Annex

The warm days of summer are gone, and we are looking towards the quieter days of winter. The Thrift Store continues to welcome a steady stream of local and out-of-town customers. We feel incredibly blessed that we have survived and thrived during this difficult time. We had an influx of wonderful donations. Donations are being accepted every Friday from 10 am to noon going forward into the New Year.



Our Annex will be open through Christmas. There is furniture, artwork and decorations galore! Please visit us for all of your holiday decorating needs! We are still welcoming new volunteers. Call (508) 896-8744 or email celine@firstparishbrewster.org if that is something you would be interested in doing!

Speaking of the holidays, we just received a new order of Rada kitchen knives! Rada knives are extremely popular and make great holiday gifts! Stop by the Thrift Store to see our selection of cutlery! We also have a nice selection of winter coats, jackets and sweaters.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts through this challenging time. We will be closed for two weeks following Christmas.

Celine Crook, Thrift Store Manager



Worship Services

Please join us Sunday mornings at 10 am 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.

<https://zoom.us/j/899300451> Meeting ID: 899 300 451

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

Be sure to have a chalice nearby!

Note: Wednesday Vespers will continue at 6:30 pm through Dec 23rd and will take a break Dec 30-Jan 6, resuming on Jan 13th. <https://zoom.us/j/110279689> Meeting ID: 110 279 689

One tap mobile +16468769923,,110279689#

Sunday, Dec 6th: Merry Blitzmas

Rev Jessica Clay

Join us as we explore lessons from the blitz, and how those apply to our pandemic times.

Sunday, Dec 13th: Tiny Joys

Rev Jessica Clay

During this service we will explore the importance of going towards joy in our lives.

Please email your videos to maggie@firstparishbrewster.org of something that brings you joy (ideally with you in the video).

Sunday, Dec 20th: Pageant

Twinks Hastings, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Join us for a once in a lifetime online virtual pageant - all the magic of our beloved holiday tradition, just with a online twist. Join us for this delightful, uplifting time and don't forget your pageant star!

Wednesday, Dec 23rd:

Blue Holidays/Vespers Service 6:30 pm

Rev Jessica Clay

Join us for this 30-minute contemplative service with readings and music. A place of rest and renewal for all who need it.

Thursday, Dec 24th: Christmas Eve Service Lessons & Carols 4:30 pm

Rev Jessica Clay

All are welcome to gather in comfort, as we reflect on this year together and look towards the future with hope.

Sunday, Dec 27th: No service

You are invited to worship with other congregations.

Sunday, Jan 3rd: Yule Log Invitation

On this morning, Chuck Madansky and Twinks Hastings will be having a fire and holding space on the plaza from 9am-noon. Come along anytime to put your hopes and dreams for the New Year into the community yule log and spend a few moments around the warming community fire.

Sunday, Jan 10th: Tolling of the Bells

Rev Jessica Clay

During this service we will honor those who have died in the last year. If you want to say the name of a beloved who has died, please pre-register by emailing cove@firstparishbrewster.org by January 11th.

Sunday, Jan 17th: 8th Principle Service

Rev Jessica Clay

During this service we will learn about the 8th principle and Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings and what they are inviting us to do in the year ahead.

Sunday, Jan 24th: UUSC Service

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Sunday is a single day of learning, support, and action for congregations focused on uplifting UUSC's work.

For upcoming service information see our Weekly Angle, and past service videos can be found on the First Parish Brewster UU YouTube channel.

From the Minister

The Holidays are going to be very different for many people this year, they may be spent alone or with a partner whereas in years past you may have had a house full of people. My hope for all of you is that, however, you find yourself spending the holidays that you are able to have sweet moments in spite of it all. These may be taking a walk on our now empty beaches or cooking yourself a delicious meal, or calling a loved one that you haven't spoken with in a long time.

Our December theme is stillness, and advent is about waiting, waiting to see what will emerge. As we near the solstice, our nights get darker earlier. May you make moments for stillness, to reflect on what a year it has been, and set intentions for the year to come. None of us knew one year ago that we would be midway through a pandemic at this time, and taking moments of stillness can help us reflect on what we have learned, how we have made meaning, and how we have been changed by this.

Our January theme is imagination. This invites us to explore possibilities, set intentions for what we want to do once a vaccine is available. Maybe your priorities have changed as a result of this pandemic in ways you couldn't even have imagined. For me, I never realized how much I love going out to breakfast until I couldn't do it any longer. As I imagine my life post-Covid, savoring going out to breakfast is high on my list.

During February, we will explore the theme of Beloved Community and what it takes to bring this concept of Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's into being. Come and imagine with us as we reflect on the past, present, and future.

You all have surprised me during this pandemic in so many ways. As we move through this winter together, please keep reaching out and caring for each other. We will get through this together, but we all are needed to help care for and tend to this community.

Take good care, and know that I am here if a phone call or Zoom chat would help. I hope to see you at worship on Sundays or Vespers on Wednesdays.

Warmly, Rev Jessica



Screenshot from Rev Jessica's visit to the 8th Principle Taskforce's Zoom meeting.

A VIEW THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PROPOSED 8TH PRINCIPLE

The proposed 8th Principle: *“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 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.”*

Our Taskforce has been exploring the proposed 8th Principle as part of our mandate to educate our congregation to prepare for a vote at our Annual Meeting in June 2021. We took a closer look at each of the current Seven Principles, asking questions that may shine a light on the need to expand our covenant with the UUA. We invite you to join us in this process.

Principle 1: “The inherent worth and dignity of every person.” How can FPBUU members build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community and dismantle racism in ourselves and in our congregation? How can we learn about the experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous & People of Color) within and beyond the walls of our sanctuary?

Principle 2: “Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.” Are we prepared to interrupt racist or oppressive acts when we witness them? Are we prepared to educate ourselves and listen compassionately to people on the margins?

Principle 3: “Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth.” How can we encourage spiritual growth in people who are under the yoke of institutional racial oppression? How can we break entrenched patterns of domination and provide a pathway to spiritual growth for those who have been excluded historically?

Principle 4: “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning in our lives.” We say that we care deeply about social justice, display Black Lives Matter signs, and join in protest marches. How can we ensure that our policies, procedures, and practices align with our core values?

Principle 5: “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” Do we listen to ALL voices, welcome BIPOC, and consider how to ensure they are treated fairly by our legislative, justice, and law enforcement systems? We need to remember that the 8th Principle speaks of all oppressions.

Principle 6: “The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” What has kept us from achieving peace, liberty, and justice for all? What can we do to move us from believing in the goal of Principle 6 towards actually achieving it?

Principle 7: “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” What must we do to reverse actions that have excluded segments of our community from this interdependent web? How can we become more inclusive of those at the intersection of economic, environmental, and racial injustice?

We hope these questions have stimulated you to think about the 8th Principle. We are planning additional opportunities for you to share your ideas:

- Taskforce members will be meeting with committees and other ongoing groups in our congregation to discuss how adopting the 8th Principle will impact their work.
- We are also planning Q & A sessions to continue our dialogue, and we will provide details when these are scheduled.

We look forward to sharing our work with the congregation and hearing from members as we move toward a congregational vote at our Annual Meeting in June 2021.

Taskforce Members: Ed Klein, Elenita Muñiz, Tom O’Brien, Jane Perkins, Rosanne Shapiro, Carol Yerby

Reparations at FPBUU

With inspiration and momentum growing out of General Assembly this year, a Reparations Taskforce has formed at First Parish. Many interested individuals decided this first year to focus primarily on African chattel slavery as it has been present in the history of First Parish. We have split into two working groups: ***Reparations History Group & Reparations Action Group.***



The ***Reparations History Group*** is researching the history of FPB, its members, ministers, and church buildings through the lens of enslaved and indigenous people. Our goal is to document and disseminate information about slavery on Cape Cod, particularly at First Parish Brewster. This work will inform the Reparations Action Group to develop recommendations for reparations.

Our work builds on previous research like the 1975 FPB booklet “Shipmasters of First Parish Brewster” and notes from the 1997 FPB History Research Committee for the church’s 275th Anniversary. We also rely on the work of Sally Gunning of the Brewster Historical Society and the work of Meadow Dibble of The Atlantic Black Box Project. These scholars have been a wealth of information on local history and have provided advice on research methods. We

are examining FPB’s Congregational records, town and county records, wills, deeds, and bills of sale. Our research confronts the “silence of the archives,” that is, while archives are often seen as repositories of truth, the histories of Black and Indigenous people are frequently not recorded.

We are looking at two periods of history. The first period is from the late 1600s to 1783 to: identify enslaved people on Cape Cod; identify FPB sea captains participating in the slave trade; and learn how white people took land from the Wampanoag nation. The second period is from 1783 to 1863, the period between Massachusetts’ abolition of slavery and the emancipation proclamation to identify sea captains participating in the illegal international slave trade.

Our research questions are:

- Did the FPB sea captains engage in the chattel slave trade?
- Did they directly transport enslaved people?
- Did any members or ministers enslave people or invest in the slave trade?
- How did FPB come to own its land?

Members: Rikki Bates, Jeff Hush, Peggy Jablonski, Chris Morin, Cate O'Neill, Diane Pansire, Jeff Schwarz, and Abby Walters.

The ***Reparations Action Group*** is aligning with and researching other UU congregations' workarounds financial reparations and alternative reparations.

Members: Karen Watson-Etsell, Jeff Schwartz, Wilderness Sarchild, Susan Smith, and Abby Walters.

Please contact Rev Jessica if you would like to join either group.

Social Justice in Action

UU the Vote

First Parish has fielded a strong GetOutTheVote team for almost a year leading up to the 2020 election. UU the Vote Brewster joined this national, non-partisan UUA initiative by writing letters and postcards to voters and joining national phone and text banks. We sent 2,020 letters and 9,200 postcards to voters. This vital social justice initiative underscores our 5th Principle, which affirms and promotes “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process...” May we always vote our values.

#VoteLove-Diane Pansire, Susan Smith and 87 members & friends of First Parish Brewster UU



Building a Bigger Table

Building a Bigger Table (BBT) was formed in the summer of 2019 out of a concern for the mistreatment of asylum seekers at our southern border. In November, Cecilia, an asylum seeker from Ghana, was welcomed by our community and in December gave birth to her first child, Charlene. Many remember that she played Mary at FPBUU’s Christmas pageant. Her husband, Charles, arrived the following February. The young family has since decamped to a Ghanaian community in Worcester.

Since government regulations prohibit asylum seekers from employment, BBT continues to support them by providing laundry appliances and communication devices. Charles’ hearing is scheduled for next year and he must keep in touch with Immigration Service.

Our Mission Statement: Building a Bigger Table is a faith-based community that supports individuals who are seeking asylum in the US. This has led us to seek additional ways to help. We mounted a Backpack Campaign to provide people at the border with clothing and toiletries as they were forced to walk back to Mexico to await their hearings. Recently we collected shoes, socks and underwear to send to the border.



To support this work and keep up to date on BBT activities, follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/894261871066365/> or contact rickdraper@me.com to be added to our email list.

From the Board President

Unitarian Universalism is not a dogmatic faith but a dynamic faith whose members uphold and strive to live by 7 Principles. The First Principle is that we believe *in the inherent worth and dignity of every person*.

As Unitarian Universalists we assert no creed but instead we are unified by our shared search for spiritual growth guided by a living tradition. In addition to the Seven Principles these traditions are summarized by the six sources. This URL lists the 7 Principles and 6 sources <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/river/principles-sources>.

For me, given the political climate in our country today, the 2nd source - *Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love* is one that we need to focus on and commit to.

As President of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased that the Board members have unanimously voted to working on 2 very important goals for fiscal year 2020/2021 – The adoption of the 8th Principal and creating a congregational covenant. We have 2 taskforces made up of FPBUU Board members and church members. The Board of Trustees believe we must work to “dismantle racism and other oppression in ourselves and our institutions and work to promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person”.

Carol DiAnna, President, Board of Trustees

“Reverence and respect for human nature is at the core of Unitarian (UU) faith. We believe that all the dimensions of our being carry the potential to do good. We celebrate the gifts of being human: our intelligence and capacity for observation and reason, our senses and ability to appreciate beauty, our creativity, our feelings and emotions. We cherish our bodies as well as our souls. We can use our gifts to offer love, to work for justice, to heal injury, to create pleasure for ourselves and others. ‘Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy,’ the great twentieth-century Rabbi Abraham Heschel wrote. Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each person as a given of faith—an unshakeable conviction calling us to self-respect and respect for others.”

Rev Dr Rebecca Parker’s reflection on the first Principle.

Board of Trustees 2020-2021

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

Congregational Covenant Task Force

One of the Board of Trustees' goals was to establish a Congregational Covenant Taskforce to create a covenant for the health of the community that can be voted on at the next annual meeting.

The group is guided by this quote from David Augsburger:

"A group is as healthy as its 'social contract' is clear; a congregation as faithful as its covenant is mutually understood; a pastor as effective as the pastor's and people's commitment to trust and integrity is honored, guarded, and fulfilled."

Taskforce Members: Rand Burkert, Barb Draper, Katharine Farnham, Cari Keith, and Susan Smith

Forming Our Congregational Covenant An invitation to Engage Together in Creative Process!

As Unitarian Universalists, we are a covenantal community grounded in a set of Seven Principles. Covenants support the individual search for truth and then invite that truth into the larger community conversation. This intentional practice leads to real change, as each voice is heard and honored.

“Returning to the practice of honoring covenant is essential in the world in which we find ourselves. The divisions between generations, between economic levels, and between people of different races, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities are unprecedented. If we remember that we are a covenantal faith, we have a better chance of surviving the changing perceptions and attitudes about religion and faith in our nation.” (Widening the Circle, p18)

Here at First Parish Brewster, Small Group Ministry has a covenant, but we lack a congregational wide covenant that expresses how we want to be with each other.

“It is in the continual practice of listening and reflection that the possibility of covenant reveals itself.” (Practicing Covenant, Erica Baron, UUA.org, September 21, 2020)

A Congregational Covenant must be a creation of community and cannot be simply handed down as an expectation of behavior. As a member of our beloved community, please consider what you bring to this conversation by responding to the following question:

What do you want to offer by way of covenantal promises to the members of this community?

Please email your responses of no more than 200 words to Katharine Farnham at katharinefarnham51@gmail.com.

Membership Committee

Despite our physical distance, the Membership Committee has continued to be busy welcoming visitors and new members. New Member/Bring a Friend to Church Sunday introduced eight new members in October. In calendar year 2020 so far, 24 people have joined First Parish, some of whom have barely been in our beloved meetinghouse! To acquaint yourself with our newest members, go to Breeze/New Members/New Members 2020. Extend a warm welcome and hand of friendship in any way you can by phone, email, snail mail, or in the chat in Zoom.

Members continue to fill in the “About Me” section in Breeze, to help members and especially new members feel more welcome and connected. Post your 3-4 sentence bio by simply filling out the “About Me” section found at end of the *Digital Member Data Form*, <https://fpbuu.breezechms.com/form/d0113928>. If you have any questions about this, you can also contact Maureen Osborne DocOsbo@gmail.com.

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



Lifespan Religious Education Ministries

This year has provided me with many ways in which to stretch my imagination muscles. Like DLRE's across the country, I had to re-form, re-shape and reimagine our religious education programs almost over-night at a time when our children, youth, and families need their beloved community more than ever.

Everything about life right now seems to need a little imagination to make it happen. How to reimagine the sacred and important holiday traditions while keeping everyone safe? How to reimagine worship and committees, the pageant, and our comprehensive sex and sexuality education program (OWL) for an online world?



Sometimes I drift into longing for the “before times.” A time when our sanctuary was a full and lively place on Sunday mornings, and our infants could be part of things, where I could meet Elenita at the Snowy Owl



to scheme creative ideas for community days, and I could hug my friends close. However, I then think about this mass scale reimagining of life that has happened and honestly find myself appreciating some of the new ways of doing things more. I enjoy having children and youth who have moved away from Brewster be a full part of our Sunday mornings. I love the online collaboration with five different churches across America to run not one but two awesome reimagined OWL classes each week, where my co-teacher is in Ohio, and I LOVE that my mum can worship with me every week from Scotland! Mostly what I love is that this reimagining has grown accessibility to programs, events, the arts,

conferences, and worship to those who have been unable physically or financially to attend before. This reimagining has shone a light on what Disability Rights activists have been fighting for over the past decades and helped me to understand more of the privilege I hold in this world.

When we get through this time (and we will), my hope is that we never return to “normal.” I hope that we will forever be deeply changed by this time and continue to reimagine the world that we live in, that it is more equable and just for all people.

Twinks Hastings,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education



Adult Religious Education Opportunities

“Decolonizing Wealth” Book Discussion

In November, Karena Stroh, the Administration and Finance Director, led a service based on Edgar Villanueva’s book “Decolonizing Wealth : Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance.” with a goal to open minds and hearts to the idea of money as medicine. The response from those in attendance was of gratitude for lifting up this timely message.



According to poll results during the service, 54% said that it was “moderately difficult” to “I just don’t” talk about money. However, 73% felt that decolonizing wealth was a very important topic.

Edgar Villanueva’s book lays out “Seven Steps to Healing.” The FPBUU community has already begun this journey to healing with so much more yet to do. Let us continue to build a beloved community, together.

Karena will be facilitating a “Decolonizing Wealth” book discussion group in January. Please email karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.com to sign up. The dates and time will be determined in mid-December by consensus of those who sign up.

My Grandmother’s Hands: Using embodied practices as tools for healing racialized trauma.

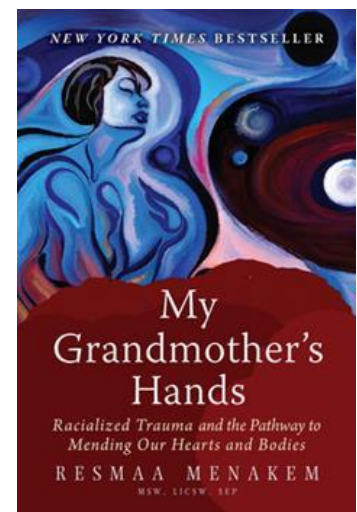
Mondays Feb 1, 8, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 from 4-6:30 pm

We will use Resmaa Menakem’s book, “My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies” as a method for people of all races and ethnicities to understand how whitebody supremacy is reinforced in the US and provides a healing process. While this program will involve reading and some discussion, there will be emphasis on the body-centered practices contained in the book. Menakem writes: "If you see white supremacy as a belief system or ideology, in this book you will discover only a fraction of it exists in our cognitive brains. For the most part, white supremacy lives in our bodies." This course will provide insight and tools to help you understand and constructively deal with the embodied aspects of racism.

Facilitated by Rev. Jessica Clay

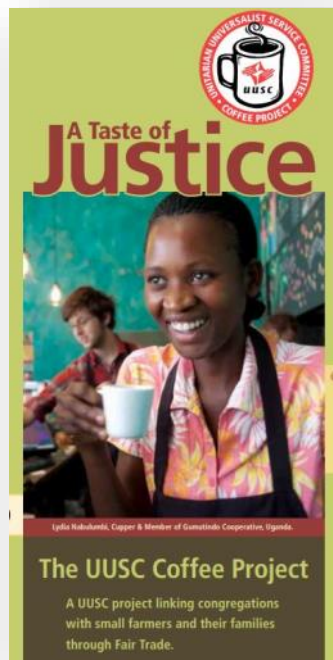
For questions, contact Rev. Jessica Clay (revjessica@firstparishbrewster.org)

To sign up please email cove@firstparishbrewster.org



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Fair Trade Sales

CHRISTMAS is coming and we can now order CHOCOLATE for gifts and stockings. In fact the new price is only \$3.50 instead of last years price of \$4.00. Let's support small farmers and our own UUSC's work for Justice around the world. We can order chocolate with almonds, whole almonds and sea salt, orange bits, mint,



caramel, dark and very dark. Let me know your favorite. Our sales, during the pandemic, will be accomplished 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 your needs (additional contact info can be found in Breeze). 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. 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 . Let's enjoy great products and help those in need this Holiday Season.

Items available for purchase include coffee (regular and decaf, both ground and whole bean), tea, cashews, whole almonds (tamari and natural), Palestinian olive oil.

Mary Wallace, Coordinator

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry continues our monthly meetings on Zoom, third Thursday of the month at 10:30 am. Members continue to knit, crochet, package, and bless prayer shawls to be given to those on pastoral care visits from Rev Jessica or Helping Hands. For the past couple of months, we have pivoted to fashioning items to be sold at the Holiday Fair. Members include Pat Amos, Karen Corcoran, Diane Heart, Kip Keene, Liz Libby, Denise Litz-Walters, Rosemary Moeller, Marietta Nilson, Karen Ross, Liz Sjogren, Susan Smith, Barbara Sykes, Carol Wall, and Carol Ann Yeaple



In Harmony - Music Ministry

The themes of this issue of the Angle, stillness, imagination, and beloved community, are what we musicians must hold on to in this challenging time. We are on hold – a stillness has descended over the sanctuaries and concert halls; we have used our imaginations to provide and engage in online programming of music. We do this to remain in and retain the beloved community that creating music together, and listening to music together brings.

Our choir has risen to the challenge of recording an anthem or hymn or song every week for virtual choir videos. As we try to get the camera adjusted, the light adjusted, the music adjusted, there is great vulnerability of singing only your part into the room. You are not leaning on the chorister next to you, staggering your breathing so that to the congregation, the entire musical line sounds smooth and breathless. And inevitably, just as you begin the tenth try at recording your part for the week, the neighbor starts up the lawnmower, the dog barks, the cat sings along. But we continue in imagination and beloved community.

We will continue to create music in whatever way we must, for music is beloved community.

Danica A. Buckley, Music Director



FPBUU Helping Hands -A New Model

Helping Hands is alive and well at FPBUU. We continue to provide services to any member who asks. Some of our services include: meals, soup and cookie deliveries; visits, phone calls and greeting cards; grocery shopping, errands, dog walking, yardwork, technical assistance, and rides.

We try to help with all requests or attempt to provide information or an appropriate community contact leading to a solution. We do operate differently now. While we no longer meet as a group, members have signed up to serve in specific areas.

Requests are forwarded to the Helping Hands team members who are assigned to offer that service. Currently, we are in need of individuals who are willing to give rides.

If you would like to volunteer, need help with something or know someone who you think Helping Hands could assist, please contact the office, Rev Jessica or Tavia Ossola. If you are reaching out for someone else, be sure to get their permission first.

Requests can be made to the office (508-896-5577 or cove@firstparishbrewster.org), to Rev Jessica (revjessica@firstparishbrewster.org), or directly to Tavia Ossola (contact info in Breeze).

Thank you for supporting the Helping Hands Ministry at First Parish Brewster UU.

Tavia Ossola, Coordinator



Administration and Finance Ministries



I love winter. I love when the snow falls, covering everything. It's magical, and there is a stillness that can only be found during this season. Everything has died back and returned to their roots. It's on days like these, I dream of being a bear because I adore the idea of hibernation. A time to let all the "to dos" go and just be still. For someone brought up with a healthy dose of "do, do, do", to really pause during this time has been an intentional act of defiance. Also, when I let go of what I think I "should" do and ask the Creator how can I best serve all beings, I am left with a deep knowing of being exactly where I need to be and the "shoulds" drop away. I realize not everyone has this same relationship with the winter season as I do, and the pandemic has certainly turned everything upside down. This time of reflection has been infused with anxiety and heartbreak; our humanness seeping through and quick tempers

sometimes out pace intentional acts of kindness. January's theme of imagination feels like just what we will need to address the intense isolation that many have been feeling for months with no end in sight. I keep coming back to the questions: how can I grow at this time with these obstacles? What and who am I being called to be? What is my role in creating and maintaining a beloved community? I hold these questions with an open hand and heart, full of curiosity and gratitude.

(And maybe with my head tilted back and my tongue stuck out, waiting for that first snowflakes to fall.)

Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director

From the Endowment Board

In Memoriam: The Endowment Board wishes to acknowledge gifts to the Endowment Fund in memory of Lucy Daniels, Marilyn Guernsey and Howard Schoen. We are grateful for these gifts and hold their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

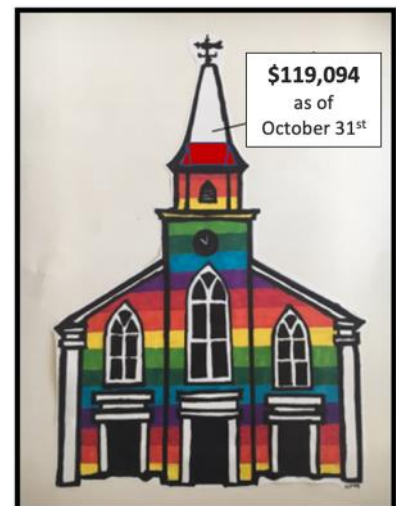
Endowment Loan Repayment Fund Update: In 2001-02 we borrowed \$554,489 from the Endowment Fund to pay off the mortgage we had originally secured to purchase Winslow House, the Barn and grounds. As of October 31st, the balance owed is \$119,094. That means we have repaid 79% of the original loan.

Once the loan is fully repaid, we will have over \$50,000 to distribute annually for special programs, events, projects and capital expenses.

Currently all donations to the Endowment Fund go to repaying this loan. There are many ways to give to the Endowment Fund and each offer tax advantages. You will want to discuss any gifts with your attorney or tax advisor.

If you have any questions, please talk with a member of the Endowment Board.

Board Members: Linda Bailey-Davies, Bob Flanagan (Recording Secretary), Howard Hayes (Chair), John Kielb (Financial Secretary) and Bruce MacGregor.

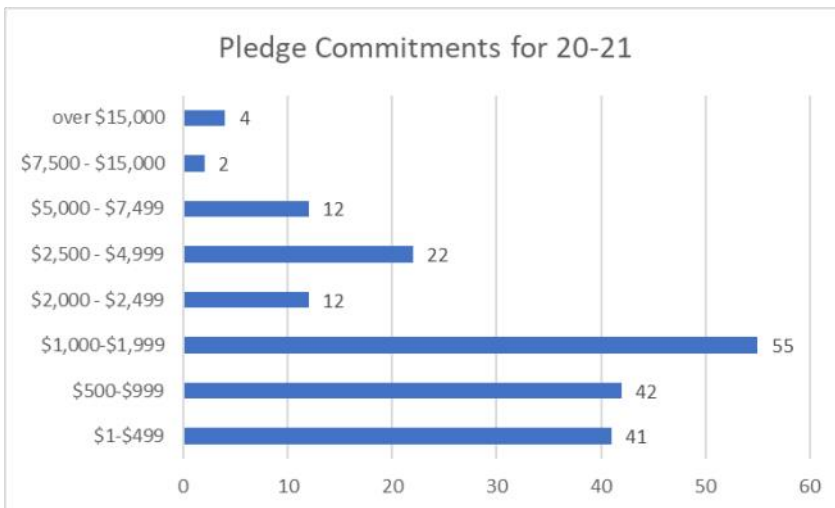




Strengthening Community

2020-21 Stewardship Update

Who knew that when we began this year's Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, March 1st, two weeks later, the church would be closed due to the pandemic?



The ensuing months have shown what a resilient, caring community we are. Your financial generosity has enabled us to continue providing services and programs for our community. As Rev. Jessica continues to say, "We will get through this together."

If you have not made a pledge yet and can do so, please contact either of us.

In faith,

Susan Flaws and Tavis Ossola
Stewardship Co-chairs

From the Treasurer

We are slowly stepping into wintery times, with often quieter days and longer nights. These seasonal changes can be challenging but are now layered upon the strangeness and strife all around us. Even amid the uncertainty of our times, there is a pervading sense that we, the members and friends and forbears of First Parish Brewster, have cast our lot with one another, sharing what we have and receiving what we need.

It is gratifying that the church finances appear to be holding a steady course. The major income streams are at or above target, and expenses are at or below. The pledges and the thrift store are above where we expected to be at this point, and both church fundraisers have exceeded expectations. Because our cash flow has been favorable, we have not had to tap into the \$110,000 from the Endowment Fund approved by the congregation.

We are people who belong to one another, and it's shown through innumerable acts of generosity and loving care for one another in our unfolding lives. If you ever have questions, suggestions, or ideas about church finances, we'd like to hear them.

Diane Pansire, Treasurer

Finance Committee Members: Rog Smith, Karen Witting, Gail Webb, and Susan Flaws. Also regularly attending the Finance Committee meetings are Karena Stroh and Bob Flanagan, notetaker extraordinaire.

Church Office 508 896-5577

1 Harwich Rd., Brewster, MA, 02631

(Physical office closed due to pandemic. 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

Celene Crook, Thrift Store Manager 508 896-8744 celine@firstparishbrewster.org

Jennie Mignone, Sexton/Videographer 508 776-6844 jennie@firstparishbrewster.org

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

Maggie Baker, Tech Support maggie@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@gmail.com

Website/Social Media

fpbuu.org

[Facebook.com/fpbuu](https://www.facebook.com/fpbuu)

Need help requesting to schedule a ZOOM meeting? 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 email us to let us know how we can help

cove@firstparishbrewster.org
508-896-5577

Deadline Reminder



FPBUU Quarterly Angle
Spring Issue (March-May)
Submissions Due - Feb 1st
[**cove@firstparishbrewster.org**](mailto:cove@firstparishbrewster.org)

FPBUU Weekly Angle
Due Wednesday by 12 noon
[**weekly@firstparishbrewster.org**](mailto:weekly@firstparishbrewster.org)

Submissions for a Facebook Page
[**karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org**](mailto:karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org)

Updates for the FPBUU website
[**karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org**](mailto:karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org)