

First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist
Fall Quarterly 2021



September: *Embracing Possibility*



October: *Cultivating Relationship*



November: *Holding History*



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Ingathering Sunday!

Join us on **Sunday Sept 12** as we kick off the church year together, in-person and in our sanctuary. Please bring water for our water ceremony and an open heart. All are welcome at 10 am.

Administration and Finance Ministries

Each September, First Parish Brewster UU begins its church year with an Ingathering service. The beautiful thing about a new start is that it's full of possibilities. Like spring, when so much is in bud, it's fall on the Cape, which is its own beginning for those who reside here year-round. So many parts of church life are like this, a bit not what you have experienced before. And still, when Ingathering Sunday comes around, there is so much excitement in the air. I think there's something about coming back together, to see those who had been away for the summer, whether working long hours while businesses are busy, entertaining visiting house guests, or playing tourists themselves in another part of the world. It's a time of coming back together and to pick back up the work of weaving the collective vision of this community.

This year, I volunteered to facilitate a Soul Matters group for Church Administrators, which is an exciting opportunity for me to cultivate relationships with other religious professionals. Participating in a Soul Matters group once a month is a spiritual practice individually as well as for the group. First Parish Brewster has been running Small Group Ministries for years and it is a great chance to grow your soul while getting to know other members on a deeper level.

This summer, I worked with Susan Flaws to review our Endowment records which was a trip into the church's history. Reading through emails and meeting minutes back into the 1990s only confirmed for me how much First Parish Brewster has meant to so many people through the years. To hold this history is inspiring, and I am grateful to be able to serve this congregation.

Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director

From the Minister

As we prepare to return to our buildings, our September theme of *Embracing Possibility* perfectly encapsulates how I am feeling. I am so looking forward to seeing your faces each Sunday and living into new possibilities of what it is like to gather after so long. We will gather in person as long as it is safe to do so, and we know from the last year & a half that we can quickly pivot to online if need be. We have embraced possibilities over and over again during this pandemic. So, as we enter this new church year together, I hope you will feel the connections holding you here and will be inspired by some new possibilities for engagement within this community.

Our October theme is *Cultivating Relationship*, and we will explore how we have done this online and in person. We have all been changed by the pandemic, and by reaching out to each other during this time, we have worked to strengthen the bonds that hold us. During this month, we will also reflect on pets' special place in our lives for the Pet Blessing Sunday on October 3.

Our November theme is *Holding History*. While we look towards Thanksgiving, we will explore our histories and how they are connected to this holiday. As the weather changes, the sweaters are pulled out of storage. As the end of the year nears, I hope you will be able to join us for Sunday worship, Small Group Ministry, and spend time with our children & youth. These are just a few of the ways that are open to you to deepen your relationship with this community. You are welcome here, whether online or in person. Thank you for choosing us as your community.

Rev Jessica Clay



Our New Name: Caring Committee

Helping Hands and Pastoral Care Committees will be known in the future as the *Caring Committee*. Our volunteers will continue to provide many services to our members who indicate that they need some assistance by calling the office or me. We will continue to provide rides, soup, meals, visits, greeting cards, and calls.

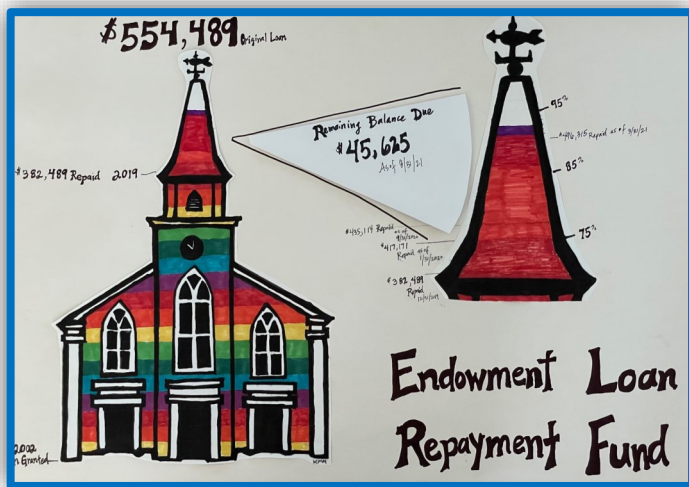
During the past year, we have provided rides to medical appointments and to other places that members needed to get to; we have provided soup for people who are ill and meals to people who needed support after a hospitalization; we have sent greeting cards in times of loss or other events; we've helped people find care facilities; we have helped people find services in the community to meet their needs. As Covid continues, we are willing to help with almost anything or assist you in finding that help. If you need someone to meet and chat with on a regular basis, we will try to provide a Pastoral Care Associate,

Your requests are confidential, and we can only assist when we have the permission of the person needing the assistance. Please email Tavia Ossola at melania39@iCloud.com or by calling 508-237-9919. You can also call the office and ask for Karena or Susan Flaws. We have many competent and eager volunteers, so do not hesitate to ask if you have a need. Thank you. Tavia

From the Endowment Board

In Memoriam

Evelyn J. Swanson, former member of FPBUU, passed away this June at the age of 101! Evelyn proudly served in the United States Marine Corps, taught school, and at one time worked for AT&T. She joined FPBUU in 2002 and took an active interest in church finances, and always worked at the Sea Captain's Fair. She moved to Linden Ponds in 2005, where she participated in a UU Fellowship Group. Friends Joanne & Paul Hush, Kitty & Don Schober, Janet Bell, and Barbara Ehle continued to visit with her. Evelyn named the First Parish Brewster Endowment Fund as the beneficiary of her life insurance policy. We are grateful for her thoughtfulness and this *very* generous gift.



GREAT NEWS!!!!

Only a balance of \$45,625 remains on the original \$554,489 Endowment loan to the church. If this balance is paid prior to December 31, 2021, there will be over \$60,000 available to distribute for special projects, events, etc. in the next fiscal year (July 2022-June 2023).

At a special Service on September 26th, the Endowment Board will outline ways we can all help pay down the balance. Stay tuned!!!

Thrift Store Update - Happy Fall!

This summer has been an extremely busy one at the Thrift Store. Although mask mandates are still in place, it hasn't stopped thousands of happy treasure hunters from coming through our doors. It has been wonderful to cater to the many visitors we have had this season on the Cape. However we are looking forward to the fall and seeing more of our local regulars!

At the time of this writing, we have been re-opened for a full year since the 2020 lockdown. As we celebrate this special anniversary, another big thank you is owed to the dedicated volunteers that have continued to support the thrift store's mission. Our success has only been possible because of their unwavering enthusiasm.

The Annex is closed for the time being, but we hope to re-open for the holiday season. The availability to have the Annex open will directly correlate to the number of volunteers we have to run it...so if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, please consider spending a few hours volunteering at the Annex so we can set up our holiday shop!

If you are active on social media - check us out on Facebook and Instagram!

Celine Crook, Thrift Store Manager



Fundraising: Coming Together

In the spirit of bringing together a community that has been apart for “way too long,” the Fundraising Team envisions a future with fun and friends.

While in this environment, our fall offering includes a barbeque picnic lunch with music by the Sand Dunes Combo on the Winslow House grounds Saturday, Oct 2nd (rain date Oct 3rd). Tickets will go on sale online and after the service on Sept 12th, 19th, and 26th. What could be better than music and a picnic with friends, unless it’s winning a 50/50 raffle to boot! The winner is to be drawn at our picnic’s closing.

Since we know that the way to many a heart at FPB is through yummy, sweet, and delicious food, we will be offering a pre-Thanksgiving pie sale to be followed by our Holiday Fair and Cookie Walk on Dec 4th. We hope that pictures with Santa will happen once again - We all can dream – and this is the time of year when dreams come true!

Speaking of dreaming, we’ve come up with a new series this year – “Pot Luck and Passion,” held in November, January, and February. Speakers will be enlisted to share their passion; you bring the potluck. And plan to have your passion piqued!

All events will be subject to Covid Taskforce guidelines. But for now, looking through our rose-colored glasses, we plan to celebrate community by coming together again!

Please let us know if you have some fun ideas to share with the Fundraising Team. Of course, new members are always welcome. Send your ideas and inquiries to Judy Harrison at bharrison2.net.



Save the Date For a Fall Picnic!

Eats & Beats

An outside gathering on the Winslow House Lawn for Food, Fellowship, Music, Dancing, and Games

Saturday, October 2nd from 11:30 to 2:00

Rain date: Sunday, October 3rd from 12:30 to 3:00

Picnic Lunch: Pulled Pork or Veggie Burger, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Salad, and Drinks

An Eclectic Mix of Music Through the Ages by the Sand Dunes Combo

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Payments by cash, check or by going to FPBUU.org/donate. On the drop-down menu, select, “Give to Fall Picnic”

Adults, \$25 Children under 12, \$10. Scholarships available.

Proceeds go to FPBUU's Operating Budget

Covenant Groups Begin in October

Covenant Groups are comprised of 8-12 people meeting monthly for 1 1/2 to 2 hours to share insights and observations on thought-provoking themes provided by the UUA "Soul Matters" curriculum. Through the practice of "deep listening", without critique, interruption, response, or cross-talk, we grow to form lasting connections while also participating in a congregation-wide dialogue centering on each month's spiritual theme.

2021-2022 Covenant Group Themes

October: Relationship
November: History
December: Joy
January: Intention



February: Widening the Circle
March: Faith
April: Awakening
May: Beauty

For those who miss the intimacy of in-person FPBUU gatherings, Zoom Covenant Groups are a great option! Sign up through the Covenant Group page on the FPBUU website or the sign-up link in the **September 10th Weekly Angle**. If you do not have access to the online form please send an email to: cove@firstparishbrewster.org, or call the office at 508 896-5577. We will get back to you in a timely fashion.

Watch your Weekly Angles for further announcements.

For more in-depth information about Covenant Groups, please visit our updated webpage at

<https://fpbuu.org/connections/covenant-groups/>

FPBUU Committee Contacts List

(Based on available information as of September 2021)

**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 (Staff)
Board of Trustees: Susan Smith
Building a Bigger Table: Rick Draper
Building Maintenance Committee: Judy Fenner
Caring Committee: Tavia Ossola & Rev Jessica Clay
(Formerly Known as Helping Hands/Pastoral Care)
Children and Youth Ministries (CYM): Elenita Muniz
COVE (office volunteers) Team: Karena Stroh
Covenant Groups: Maureen Osborne
Endowment Board: Howard Hayes
Fundraising Team: Judy Harrison
Finance Committee: Diane Pansire
Humanist Group: Bob Marcus
Landscape Committee: Liz Gordon
Leadership Development Committee: Judy Harrison
Lifespan Religious Education Ministries:
Twinks Hastings (Staff)

Membership: Committee: Marcia Kielb
Music Ministry: Kevin Badanes (Staff)
Policy Committee: Karen Witting
Prayer Shawl Ministry: Pat Amos
Reparations Task Force: Abby Walters
Right Relations Team: Cari Keith
Safe Congregation Committee: Rev Jessica Clay
Committee on Shared Ministry: Tavia Ossola
Social Justice Committee: Katharine Farnham
Stewardship Committee: TBD
Thrift Store/Annex: Celine Crook (Staff)
UU Connections Committee: Carol Ann Yeaple
UUSC Fair Trade Sales: Mary Wallace
Walking Group: Donna Mercaldi
LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee: TBD
Woman's Circle Alliance: Sue Bowser
Worship Associates: Rev Jessica Clay

Lifespan Religious Education Ministries

I usually use my spot in the Fall Angle to talk about our exciting plans for Religious Education (RE) in the upcoming year, but we all know there is nothing normal about these times, so I'm going to take this time to talk about you! Yes, you, reading this, are a member of our beautiful multigenerational First Parish community. I know you read the yearly call for RE teachers and say, "that's not for me; I can't teach," or "I paid my dues when my kids were in RE," or "I'm not good with kids," or "I need church for renewing my spirit," and yes, I hear you, and I'm here to tell you Religious Education is the place for you.

The great news is: if you are "not good with kids," our kids need folks who respect humans, can love them, and share our UU values. They are great with adults' so they will help you out; don't worry. In other good news, we are also looking for folks to teach our adult education programs, so there is a spot for you there as well.

For those of you who taught in RE when your kids were young, times have changed. Our pedagogy, curricula, and philosophy have changed. You are not expected to stand in front of a class and teach a curriculum; instead, come alongside our amazing young people, learn and grow with them, and be part of an incredible team of folks who work with our children and youth.

As for spiritual renewal, I hear you. It's been a tough year, and we are all looking forward to being back together, safely, in our beloved community. I encourage you to talk to any of our teachers from the last couple of years about this fear. I know that their stories of the renewal, hope, joy, and inspiration they found during their time with our children and youth will help calm any worries about this, and we have two services so you can be part of the 11 am service.

With all this said, please consider saying yes to being part of the Religious Education team this year. You will be asked to commit to one session (between 6-8 weeks). You will be working with an experienced volunteer, and you will not regret this, yes!

We are also looking for two youth advisors. These folks need to commit for the whole year and will have the privilege of working with our High School Youth Group two Sunday nights a month. I volunteered in this role myself at FPB before I joined the staff, and it was life-changing and certainly one of the reasons I chose this path for my life, so please consider being a youth advisor.

For more information, or to say yes, please email twinkshastings@firstparishbrewster.org

Twinks Hastings, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



Board of Trustees

Fall is a bittersweet time for me, saying goodbye to the joys of summer while greeting the fall with anticipation and hope. It opens a new chapter with fresh possibilities. It is an exciting time for back to church or school, a return to familiar routines.

The Board of Trustees has continued to work over the summer, being guided by strategic planning with our consultant and our two common reads: *Mistakes and Miracles* and *Governance and Ministry*.

We can now move ahead, responding to the congregational survey and the report of the Building Task Force, both of which we received in 2019 before Covid.

We have developed two goals for the church year: 1. Plan and conduct a capital campaign to build on our social justice legacy. This goal includes fundraising and project planning. 2. Widen our circle of welcome by creating a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming Beloved Community. Rev. Jessica will talk to us about forming a coalition of our social action groups to dream and plan how to implement the 8th Principle. This goal might include reviewing our bylaws and policies to ensure that they do not foster any form of oppression and offers training in Beloved Conversations and conflict management.

Rising Covid numbers nationally and on Cape Cod this summer has caused some concern. Our children remain unvaccinated. The Covid Task Force feels confident with the protocols we have in place, including masking indoors with windows open for ventilation when possible. Improving our air filtration in the Sanctuary, Parish Hall, and Winslow House is an important consideration moving forward.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon, Susan Smith, President

The *FPBUU Board of Trustees* meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm 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 Susan Smith.



Board of Trustees 2021-2022

(left to right)
Rand Burkert (Clerk),
Diane Willcox,
John Kielb,
Diane Pansire (Treasurer),
Tom O'Brien,
Susan Smith (President),
Carol Yerby (President-elect),
Bill Roberts,
Liz Libby

From Your New Director of Music

I can't dance. I mean, technically, I can time my next step to land exactly on the beat, but that's about it. It started in high school, where I had the voice to land the leads in the musical.

Unfortunately, the job of the dance captain was to un-choreograph all my roles so I could perform them. Ultimately this shortcoming led to a decision to pursue music instead of theater. Had I worked at it, who knows what might have happened? But I was "Kevin who can't dance," so that was the end of it. Why?

Have you decided that you can't sing, play, learn to read music, or be a soloist for some reason? Are your reasons rooted in truth or in a decision you made long ago, based on a negative experience? As I prepare with my colleagues to create terrific worship experiences at First Parish through music, I invite you to come forward if you have been active, return to music if you have been absent, and explore what is possible if you are new or curious. There will be a place for you to learn and grow as we enhance the spiritual life of ourselves and those around us.

FPBUU choir rehearsals will be Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm. We will be masked and distanced for our rehearsals in the sanctuary. Interested in singing in the choir? Come one come all! Contact Kevin at kevin@firstparishbrewster.org to get involved. If you are an instrumentalist, an eager audience member, or someone who loves creating events behind the scenes, please get in touch!

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you. What if you can dance and don't know it?

Kevin Badanes DMA, Director of Music



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Warm greetings to all. I'm checking in on behalf of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. We currently have 12 members who meet at 6:30 pm on the third Thursday of every month to knit and crochet together. This is currently being done virtually, but we are all working at home with our thoughts on the sacred work we are doing.

Our shawls are varied in design, colors, textures, and styles, but all are created with love and warm thoughts for those who may be receiving them. "May they be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love."

Traditionally, completed shawls are wrapped with ribbon and a card with a poem and are passed around to our knitters to embrace and give blessings as we think of their recipients.

Created many years ago by our former Religious Education Director and long-time member Kathy Cronin, the Prayer Shawl Ministry welcomes new members and ideas. (Contact Pat Amos for Zoom information).

Also, please notify Reverend Jessica or any member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry if you know of someone who might need some healing warmth and comfort from their First Parish community. Completed shawls are always available.

In Peace, Patrice Amos

Members: Karen Corcoran, Diane Heart, Kip Keene, Liz Libby, Denise Litz-Walters, Rosemary Moeller, Marietta Nilson, Karen Ross, Barbara Sykes, Carol Wall, and Carol Ann Yeaple.

Saving our Campus, One Building at a Time



Your *Building Maintenance Committee* is charged with overseeing the upkeep and needed repair of all five of our FPB buildings: The Meetinghouse, Dawes Hall (site of the Thrift Store), Winslow House, the Barn, and the Parish Hall (includes the Parish Room upstairs and Fellowship Hall downstairs.) We don't actually DO the work ourselves! Rather, we keep an eye on the condition of our buildings and find and hire the contractors to do the needed work. That may include regular maintenance (painting, new roofs, etc.) or special projects and unexpected repairs.

On our calendar for this year is getting the Meetinghouse steeple repainted and the clock faces repaired. We found an excellent company in Connecticut that will be doing the work in the spring, so keep an eye out for steeplejacks climbing over the Meetinghouse. We had also planned to refinish the floors on the ground floor of Winslow House. While that is still under consideration, we are now investigating air exchange/purifying systems to keep all our buildings safe in the face of Covid. That seems to be a priority so that the floors may be put off [again] until the next fiscal year.

We gather monthly for updates and discussions and welcome new members to join us. You don't have to be a builder or historic building expert -- we're not! But a fondness for our buildings and a sense of humor are always welcome. Contact Judy Fenner, Convenor, at 508-237-3514 if you're interested. Thank you!

Partner Church News:

“The Most Radical Thing We Can Do Is Introduce People to One Another”

Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC and link: <https://uupcc.org/>) will dissolve August 31st after 25 years of partnering North American UU's with Unitarians and Universalists in the Transylvania Region of Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, India, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, and the United Kingdom. Background: Pre-COVID, 40% of UUPCC income was derived from worldwide travel to partner churches. COVID stopped this cold. Going forward, a new organization will be formed around the UUPCC's work in international relations. The vision will remain that partnerships are part and parcel of our efforts to dismantle U.S. colonialization and white supremacy culture. The new effort will connect in some yet-unknown way with the International Council of UUs (<https://icuu.net/>) and the UUA.

News about our partnership: FPBUU, one of the pioneers in partnering, is linked to a Unitarian community in Transylvania's ethnically Hungarian village of Jobbagyfalva. The minister, Reverend Szilard Sandor, proudly announced he had passed his oral exam for a Ph.D. in pastoral care. He now awaits the Romanian government's endorsement of his advanced academic achievement to make it official.

Submitted by Marietta Nilson

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative's
4th Annual NET ZERO (Virtual) Conference

FRIDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2021

POWERING CHANGE AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL
OUR ROADMAP TO A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

CAPE COD
CLIMATE
CHANGE
COLLABORATIVE

NET
ZERO

2021

For those unfamiliar with the *Climate Collaborative*, it is a Cape-based consortium of environmental, energy, government, business, education, faith community and activist organizations with the mission of moving the Cape and Islands to carbon neutrality ("net zero") by fostering collaboration among individuals and organizations committed to mitigating the climate crisis.

First Parish Brewster UU has been a member of the *Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN)*, an affiliate of the Climate Collaborative, since 2017, and members of our congregation have participated in *Net Zero Conferences* during the past three years. If you are concerned about the climate crisis, please consider attending Net Zero-2021 and take advantage of a variety of live and pre-recorded programs, social networking opportunities and breakout sessions that will also address issues of energy equity and environmental justice.

Attendance is free to all thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Please put this event on your calendar – you will not be disappointed! For more information, please contact NZ21@capecodclimate.org.

Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee's primary focus for the fall is not only maintaining the main campus (including the lovely display of roses) but hosting and sponsoring the annual Memorial Garden recognition and celebration to be held Sunday, September 26th after the 10 am service.

Our new bench by the Mettinghouse driveway has been designed and created by Committee member Charles Harris. Supportive landscape will follow in that area.

We are always welcoming new members to our Committee. Next meeting will be on September 13th @4pm in the Parish Room.

Church Office (508) 896-5577

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

Claudia Hardwicke, Childcare Provider

Music Ministries

Kevin Badanes, Music Director kevin@firstparishbrewster.org

Ana Glig, Pianist anapiano@ymail.com

Website/ Social Media

fpbuu.org Facebook.com/fpbuu



COVE is Here to Help!!

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 office, Mon-Thurs, 9 am-1 pm, give us a call at 508-896-5577 or email cove@firstparishbrewster.org.

Let us know how we can help!

Deadline Reminders

FPBUU Winter Angle

Due November 1st, 2021

cove@firstparishbrewster.org

FPBUU Weekly Angle

Due Wednesday by 12 noon

weekly@firstparishbrewster.org

Facebook Submissions

karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org

Updates for the FPBUU website

karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org