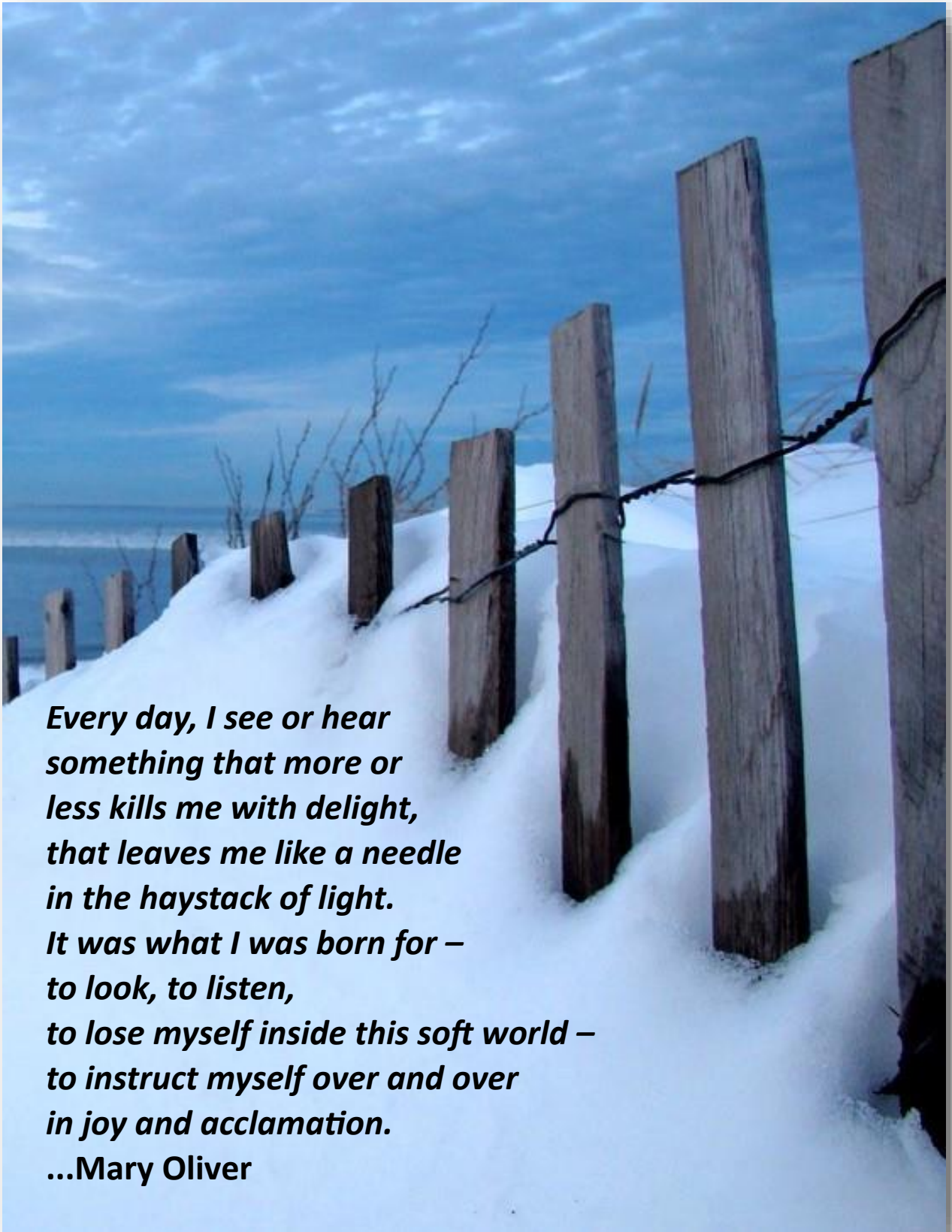


# First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist

Winter Quarterly 2021-2022



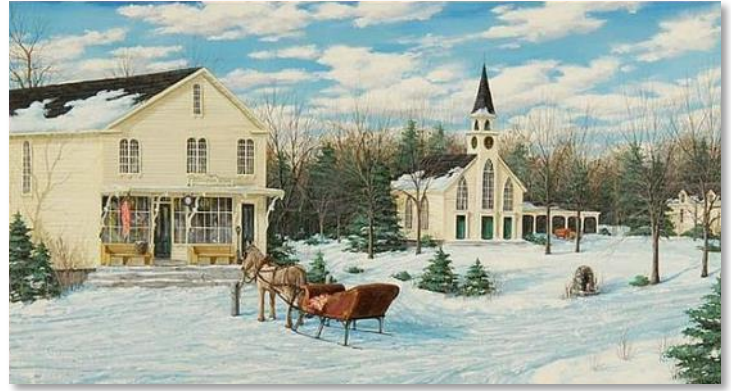
*Every day, I see or hear  
something that more or  
less kills me with delight,  
that leaves me like a needle  
in the haystack of light.  
It was what I was born for –  
to look, to listen,  
to lose myself inside this soft world –  
to instruct myself over and over  
in joy and acclamation.  
...Mary Oliver*



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## DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

At First Parish Brewster UU

**Saturday, Dec 11 Holiday Fair, Bid & Buy**  
*11 am—2 pm in the Parish Room*

**Tuesday, Dec 14 Blue Holidays Service 7 pm**

**Sunday, Dec 19 Christmas Pageant, 10 am**  
*A holiday favorite for all ages*

**Friday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services**  
*3 pm, 4:30 pm, 7 pm*

### From the Minister

Our December theme of *Opening to Joy* is so fitting for this season. It has been a challenging year, beloveds, and my heart fills with joy each Sunday when I see you sitting in our pews, showing up for yourselves and each other, and we are joined by those streaming from home. As I move towards delivering my baby and parental leave, I am intentionally seeking joyful moments with you all as we end this year together. I give thanks for so many things this season, including vaccines, masks, air filters, and all of the things in place that allow us to be together. I know this has been a hard time for many of us; I hope that there is comfort found in this season for you. If this is a hard season for you, we will have our Blue Holidays service on Dec 15th at 6 pm in our Sanctuary.

Our January theme is *Living with Intention*. I hope that the New Year brings you the new beginning that you have been looking for. I love the holidays, and New Year, for me, is a time of setting intentions, of being right on the precipice of unlimited possibilities. I try to set intentions of how I want to move in the world for the year; sometimes, it is just a word or a phrase. I invite you to do this with me.

I will be on parental leave starting in January; there will be an executive team in place to handle any concerns during the four months I am gone. I am thrilled that we will have Rev Bran Lennox as our parental leave minister; they will cover preaching and pastoral care. I hope you will give Rev Bran a warm welcome and show them just how wonderful we are. Our staff will be taking on additional duties as well; please show them some extra love during this time.

If you would like to give the staff notes of appreciation during the holiday season, we will have our stockings up at the Winslow House during December. Come on by; we would love to see you!

With deep care, Rev Jessica

## Administration and Finance Ministries

For some time, I used the salutation, “Joyfully yours.” It was a great practice of creating joy; this simple act of declaring myself joyful for all to see felt bold and courageous. As I typed it each time, I intentionally held myself accountable for this proclaimed state of being. As I read the words back to myself before hitting send, I would check in with myself and adjust to make the words feel true. I am accepting that being joyful is not about doing anything. It is all about being. This was revolutionary, because you see, I had been on a continual search for what I should be doing like so many others who grew up in the dominant culture of the United States of America.

I continue to broaden or even change my view when needed as I strive for inclusiveness. Where can I step back to allow space for another to step forward? I am continuing to educate myself and explore my compliance wrapped in self-absorption. This is messy work and worth every wound made to my pride. Now is not the time to be prideful; we must continue widening the circle within and beyond our First Parish Brewster community.

With much joy, Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director



### SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, Dec 11th 2021, 11 am—2 pm**

**Bid & Buy in the Parish Room**

**Knitwear, Pet Shop, Christmas Ornaments,  
Homemade Cookies & Baked Goods,  
Soup Shoppe, Pottery & Crafts**

**And... featuring Caroling at Noon  
& Photos With Santa**

Note: Online bidding will start on Saturday, December 4th at noon and will end on Saturday, December 11th at 9am.

Bid sheets for in-person bidding will be available when the Fair opens at 11 am.



### From the Endowment Board

**WE DID IT!!!** Thanks to the many, many generous gifts from members and friends, we have more than met our Endowment Loan Repayment goal of \$30,000. Thus, we will have more than \$60,000 to distribute in the next fiscal year (July 2022-June 2023).

*In Memoriam:* The Endowment Board wishes to acknowledge a gift from Beryl and Kevin Daley in memory of their daughter Megan and a gift from Janice Partyka in memory of Marilyn and Dick Guernsey.

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



## Membership Committee

Greetings! The FPBUU Membership Committee is a group of dedicated members working together to continue to bring Joy to our beloved congregation by welcoming visitors and new members. In that vein, we are looking for members of all ages to help us to carry our mission. Greeters are needed for our one service at this point for December, January, and February. If interested in joining this Committee, please contact Marcia Kielb. See Breeze for contact information or call the office at 508-896-5577.

### Living Into the 8th Principle

At our Annual Meeting last June, we voted to adopt the 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism. The 8th Principle is a call to action that invites us to “journey 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.”

After brainstorming a list of goals for this year, we chose to begin with a review of our By-laws. We wanted to ensure that the language and content were up-to-date and aligned with our commitment to anti-racism and anti-oppression. After review and discussion, we came up with a list of eight changes. The Board will vote on them first, and then the congregation will vote on them at this year’s Annual Meeting. Here are the recommended changes:

1. Globally search and replace “she/he” with “they” and “his/her” with “their.”
2. Globally search and replace “senior minister” with “minister” and “ministers” with “minister.”
3. Article II. Purpose - Update the Purpose to include our mission and vision statements.
4. Article III: Affiliation - Replace “the Ballou-Channing district” with “the New England Region of UUA Congregations.”
5. Article IV: Nondiscrimination - Delete the term “sex.” Replace the term “physical challenge” with “disability.”
6. Article VI: Meetings, Section 1. Notice - Add the statement: “All feasible measures will be taken to ensure that meetings shall be accessible, for in-person or virtual attendance.”
7. Article VI: Meetings, Section 4. Quorum - Globally search and replace the term “legal quorum” to “quorum,” and the term “legal meeting” to “meeting.”
8. Article XI: Endowment, Section 2. The Endowment Fund Board - Change the term “Nominating Committee” to “Leadership Development Committee.”

Note: Here is the link to read the full text of the By-laws: <https://fpbuu.org/about-us/governance/>  
Carol Yerby, Board of Trustees



### Inclement Weather Procedure

For **Sundays**: A decision will be made by Saturday at 5 pm and if services are cancelled notification will go out at that point.

For **Weekdays**: Our campus will be closed if Nauset Schools are closed, and all programming scheduled for that day will be cancelled.

#### ***Where can you expect to find out if there’s a cancellation?***

- An email blast will be sent out to all who receive the Weekly Angle.
- It will be posted to our [Facebook page](#).
- It will be submitted to [CapeCod.com](http://CapeCod.com).
- It will be announced on radio 104.7, 107.5, 99.9 & 104

## Reparations Task Force

To maximize the our effectiveness, Reverend Jessica has brought FPB Reparations (History Task Force and Action Task Force), The 8th Principle Task Force, and Social Justice/One Earth One People folks together to meet as the FPB Anti-Racism Task Force this year. The combined groups met once in early October, and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9 @7PM. Let Rev Jessica know if you would like to be added to the group list to receive the ZOOM meeting ID. We would love to have new members to make this work sustainable for us all.

The Reparations History Task Force is ongoing and essential to determine what actions we will take as our work continues. The historical research includes Native and Indigenous as well as African chattel slavery. Unfortunately, the history gathering is slow work; archival resources are often closed and unavailable due to COVID restrictions.

The Reparations Action(!) Task Force is exploring land acknowledgment and a possible trip for FPB members this springtime to Martha's Vineyard to experience its African American Heritage Trail. In addition, the New England Regional UUA has invited members of the FPB Reparations Action Task Force to meet regularly (ZOOM, of course) with three other congregations to share, learn, and develop reparation action steps in their communities. Our FPB Reparations Task Force meets once a month and is always open to anyone interested in joining.

For further information about Reparations History, contact Abigail Walters and for Reparations Action, contact Karen Watson-Etsell. See Breeze for contact information or call the office at 508-896-5577.



## Thrift Store Winter Update

It's hard to believe that we are already looking toward the end of the year! 2021 has flown by so fast. The Thrift Store continues to be very busy even though the summer tourists have gone home. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and everyone who has donated items, the Store has managed to remain open and fully stocked!

We are no longer accepting donated clothing of any kind, as we are overflowing with amazing fashion items! We are also not accepting furniture or linens and are not accepting children's items, except for books.

We have many holiday items at amazing prices and a few pieces of furniture, some toys, luggage, and miscellaneous items. We hope to reopen the Annex for the holiday season, Wednesday through Saturday from 12 pm to 3 pm until the middle of December. So make sure to stop by and say hello!

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

Celine Crook, Thrift Store Manager



**Visit our Annex  
Thrift Store!**



## FPBUU Committee Contacts List

*(Based on available information as of November 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 (Staff)  
**Covenant Groups/Small Group Ministry:** 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:** 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  
**Social Justice Committee:**  
Katharine Farnham & Sue Trask  
**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 & Mary Gamerman  
**LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee:**  
Linda Bailey-Davies & Joanne Hush  
**Woman's Circle Alliance:** Linda Hladek  
**Worship Associates:** Rev Jessica Clay

### Lifespan Religious Education Ministries: Intentional Joy!

I thought 2020 was going to be the hardest year of this pandemic time. At the start of the pandemic, there was a sense that we were all in this thing together and a drive to make the best of a really hard situation. There was also the hope for the end, the grasping for that one day when it would all be over, and life would return to normal.

Then came 2021. This year we realized there was not going to be an ending point to the pandemic, but instead just a long period of uncertainty, folks making different choices about what was safe and unsafe, confusion, anxiety, and exhaustion.

I want the adults who care for the children in our community - be they grandparents, parents, foster parents, teachers, aunts, uncles, friends, volunteers, or childcare workers - to know that I see and hear you. I know how tough this has been on you and the children in your care. I want you to know that our community is here for you.

For me, in this holiday season, I am committed to being intentional about finding my joy. I realize that the ways I used to count on joy just arriving in my life pre-pandemic are changed forever. So this year, I have decided to pause and concentrate on the small moments that fill me with joy and relish them. The first Christmas song I hear, pulling out the pageant props and seeing my favorite sparkly angel wings, the sound of the perforated cardboard ripping as I open my advent calendars in the morning.... I want to notice the tiny details of this year and let the overwhelming big picture melt away. So let me know what details you are going to relish!

Twinks Hastings, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

## Board of Trustees

During the holiday season one year ago, we were living for the most part at home, staying in quarantine, trying to protect ourselves and others from the Covid 19 pandemic. Our family was unable to be with us for our traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. Today, I have a lot of gratitude for the vaccine. With care, our families and friends can get together again. A new Remi Halo air filtration system has been installed in the Sanctuary. Cautiously and wearing masks, we are again meeting in person in the Meeting House, Winslow House, and the Barn, which feels so different from All-Zoom-All-The-Time!

Refurbishing parts of Winslow House is almost complete, thanks to generous donations of volunteer time and needed items. And thanks to Jennie for the fresh paint job. Twinks and Kevin are settled in their new office spaces. The residential staff suite consists of a sitting room, a bedroom, and an en-suite bath. Rev Jessica uses the suite on occasion and, when she takes parental leave next year, it is ready to offer our interim minister. The kitchen at Winslow House has been reorganized and resupplied to function more effectively as a residential kitchen and as an office snack area. In addition, there are now two outside meeting spaces available on the Winslow House lawn.

The Tech Team has been researching upgrades to our older computer and phone network systems to meet our community's current demands. We must offer hybrid solutions, in-person as well as online experiences, for worship and church meetings. We are focusing on the Winslow House living room, the Sanctuary, and the Parish Hall.

The Board is moving forward with our goals for the year: 1. Plan and initiate a capital campaign to build on our social justice legacy. This goal includes conversations with various consultants and beginning project planning. 2. Widen our circle of welcome by creating a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming Beloved Community. Our anti-oppression, anti-racisms groups are able to meet both in person and virtually to further their work.

We're getting through this together,

Susan Smith, President Board of Trustees

### Board of Trustees 2021-2022

Susan Smith, President  
Carol Yerby, President-elect  
Diane Pansire, Treasurer  
Rand Burkert, Clerk  
*Members-At-Large:*  
John Kielb  
Liz Libby  
Tom O'Brien  
Bill Roberts  
Diane Willcox



### Caring Committee (formally known as Helping Hands)

There are many Caring Committee members available to assist church members. We provide rides to church, medical appointments, or other destinations. We are also available to visit with someone either in a care facility or in their own home, if they would like to get together for a cup of tea or a chat. We can provide soup, or meals, if someone is in need due to illness or hospitalization.

During the past year, we have sent cards to people for all sorts of reasons, and we have also called people to keep in touch and check in with how they're doing. We can offer tech support, if somebody's having difficulty. If you know of a member who needs a prayer shawl, we have them available thanks to our Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Call Tavia Ossola if you would like to make arrangements.



## Staff Directory

**Minister:** Rev Jessica Clay (Ext. 308) [revjessica@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:revjessica@firstparishbrewster.org)

### **Administration and Finance Ministries:**

Karena Stroh, Director (Ext. 304) [karena@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:karena@firstparishbrewster.org)

Celine Crook, Thrift Store Manager (508) 896-8744

[celine@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:celine@firstparishbrewster.org)

Ted Jalowick, Bookkeeper (Ext. 305) [ted@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:ted@firstparishbrewster.org)

### **Lifespan Religious Education Ministries (includes CYM):**

Twinks Hastings, Director (Ext. 312) [twinks@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:twinks@firstparishbrewster.org)

Claudia Hardwicke, Childcare Provider

### **Music Ministries**

Kevin Badanes, Music Director Ext. 306) [kevin@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:kevin@firstparishbrewster.org)

### Website/ Social Media

fpbuu.org      Facebook.com/fpbuu

**Church Office (508) 896-5577**



**Masks are required** in all FPBUU campus buildings.



Thank you for helping to keep our community safe and healthy.

**The FPB Communications Office Volunteers Etc. (COVE)** are here to support the administrative work of the church. Need help with our online directory, online donations, checking your pledge, finding someone's contact info or any other questions you might have? Stop by the office, Mon-Thurs, 9 am-Noon and let us know how we can help!

### Deadline Reminders

*FPBUU Spring Angle*

**Due February 1st, 2022**

[cove@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:cove@firstparishbrewster.org)

*FPBUU Weekly Angle*

**Due each Wednesday by 12 noon**

[weekly@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:weekly@firstparishbrewster.org)

### Facebook Page Submissions

[karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org)

### Updates for the FPBUU website

[karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:karenastroh@firstparishbrewster.org)