

# First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist

## **March - *Renewing Faith***

“Daffodils,  
That come before the swallow dares, and  
take the winds of March with beauty.”

— William Shakespeare

“It was one of those March days when the  
sun shines hot and the wind blows cold:  
when it is summer in the light, and winter  
in the shade.” — Charles Dickens

## **April - *Awakening***

“Our spring has come at last with the soft  
laughter of April suns and shadow of April  
showers.” — Byron Caldwell Smith

“There is no glory in star or blossom till  
looked upon by a loving eye; There is no  
fragrance in April breezes till breathed with  
joy as they wander by.”

— William Cullen Bryant

## **May - *Nurturing Beauty***

“April is a promise that May is bound to  
keep.” — Hal Borland

“May, more than any other month of the  
year, wants us to feel most alive.”

— Fennel Hudson

“Rough winds do shake the darling buds of  
May, And summer’s lease hath all too short  
a date.” — William Shakespeare



# Spring Quarterly 2022

## March is Stewardship Month!

Each spring, First Parish Brewster UU members and friends are asked to make their annual pledge for the upcoming fiscal year (July 2022-June 2023). This year we look to the future with hope and confidence that whatever the challenges, together we will find a way to meet them head-on and prevail. We can do this with a sense of gratitude for a church we know is there for us.

Together We Can-

- support and take care of each other
- celebrate each other's triumphs and mourn each other's losses
- find joy in the midst of sorrow and pain
- serve in areas that ignite our passion

Please pledge as generously as you are able using the pledge card mailed to you or by doing so online. If you have any questions, contact the office (508 896-5577) or a member of the Stewardship Committee. Co-Chairs Debbi Klein and Pat Stover, Susan Flaws, Tavia Ossola, and Barry Powers



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### From the Leave Minister

As we reflect on renewing faith together this month, we are challenged to inspect our own courage and the steadfastness of those around us. Together we have been navigating all of the endless twists and turns that life has been asking of us. In April we will be awakening in many senses. We will awaken to compassion, to hope, and the beauty of nature. We will surely awaken in ways that we can't expect or plan for. Let's share these next months together, gathered in spirit, connected in faith.

Rev Bran Lennox

## Spring Worship Services



**Sunday, March 6th**

*For the Love of Music*

**Rev Bran Lennox, Leave Minister**

**Kevin Badanes, Music Director**

**FPBUU Choir**

Kevin Badanes and Rev Bran Lennox will lead us in a joyful service of discovering and appreciating music. Learn new depth behind familiar songs and summon your connection to rhythm as we grow as a musical congregation.

**Sunday, March 13th 10 am**

*Belonging*

**Rev Bran Lennox, Leave Minister**

**Worship Associate, Wilderness Sarchild**

We celebrate our New Member Ceremony today with Rev Bran and Worship Associate Wilderness Sarchild, appreciating what it means to be a part of a community of faith.

**Sunday, March 27th 10 am**

*Together, We Can*

**Rev Bran Lennox, Leave Minister**

**Worship Associate, Pat Stover**

We will close out our Stewardship Campaign with Rev Bran and Pat Stover, honoring all the amazing accomplishments of this congregation.

**Sunday, April 3rd 10 am**

*Infinitely Whole*

**Rev Bran Lennox, Leave Minister**

**Worship Associate, Tom O'Brien**

How can we see ourselves as whole and holy when we are journeying with so many challenges? Along with Worship Associate Tom O'Brien, Rev Bran will share some more of their personal journey of acceptance.

**Sunday, April 10th 10 am**

*Venturing Out*

**Rev Bran Lennox, Leave Minister**

**Worship Associate, Elenita Muniz**

It's hard to leave our comfort zones when we're surrounded by uncertainty. Join Rev Bran and Worship Associate Elenita Muniz for this Palm Sunday service.

**Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Sunrise Service 5:30 am*

Join us for a gentle sunrise service on Easter Morning on Paines Creek beach, where we will welcome in this time of rebirth and renewal.

*Easter Sunday Service 10 am*

**Rev Bran Lennox, Leave Minister**

**Twinks Hastings, Director of Lifespan Religious Education**

**Kevin Badanes Music Director**

**FPBUU Choir**

Our annual Easter Sunday service will be a blessing of music and springtime joy as we honor all that can be resurrected in us when we arise from the death of the spirit.

**Sunday, April 24th 10 am**

*Adult Coming of Age*

**Twinks Hastings, Director of Lifespan Religious Education**

Twinks Hastings will lead this creative Adult Coming of Age service with special music and many voices. We also affirm gender-diverse families in honor of Nonbinary Parents' Day, April 18th!

**Sunday, May 15th 10 am**

*To Be Announced*

**Rev Jessica Clay**

**Worship Associate, Chuck Madansky**

Please join us as for this very special service as we welcome the return of Rev Jessica to the pulpit.

**For upcoming service information, see our Weekly Angle or the FPBUU Website**

<https://fpbuu.org>

## Lifespan Religious Education Ministries

Recently, on *Tik Tok*, one of the newer social media platforms, a teacher was ranting against the administration of her school, who had been telling her to give the students so much grace this year, and the parents who were acting out so much grace, and she was saying what about the teachers, who are giving the teachers grace? She then went on to say if one more administrator asked her if she was practicing good self-care, she was going to lose her mind because she was being lectured on self-care and rest by the very same people who were piling on work and not providing the structures and support she needed to teach effectively during a pandemic, never mind give time for rest. So it struck me that teachers and all those in caring professions during this time are going to need grace and time to heal on the way out of this pandemic. As we rush back to “normal” so exhausted by “unprecedented”, how are we going to remember to go slowly with grace as we climb out of this thing together?

In CYM (Children and Youth Ministry), I am so ready to get back to our structured curriculums like OWL and Coming of Age and faith development, community days, and, and, and.... but we are just not there yet.

So these next few months, as more of us get vaccinated, Covid numbers decline, and warmer weather arrives, this is time to go gently, to restore those empty wells, to heal the wounds of the last two years and just be together; to remember what that feels like, remember what our faces look like, and once again, bloom in wholeness.

From Twinks Hastings,  
Director of Lifespan  
Religious Education



## Music Ministry ~ Notes From the Podium

Calling singers and instrumentalists of all ages! Are you a singer for whom a weekly commitment doesn't fit in your schedule, or an instrumentalist who would like to share their gifts on an occasional basis? Please get in touch, and let's find a musical home for you at First Parish. For example, you might play a prelude in a service or be a part of a recital being planned as we contemplate ways to be in community safely. Contact [kevin@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:kevin@firstparishbrewster.org), and let's talk!

Among the many studies related to Covid-19, for musicians, one stands out. A Spanish survey found that whether you were playing or just listening, music was a critical coping mechanism for overcoming isolation. As many of us found out during lockdown, time alone did not motivate us to keep up with rituals or learn a new discipline. Instead, many of us experienced the opposite and settled into ennui. If you find yourself still feeling this way, pick up that instrument, sing that hymn, or just listen as much as you can. It's what the doctor ordered.

Kevin Badanes, Music Director



## Prayer Shawl Ministry Responds to a Caring Committee Suggestion

During these winter days, knitting/crocheting are pleasant and rewarding ways to pass the time. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is temporarily turning its attention to little ones and the need in hospitals for necessities for babies. Blankets, hats, booties, mittens, sweaters, etc. All are needed. The call for knitted items is in response to an awareness that many parents are leaving hospitals without adequate garments for infants.

It was suggested that the donations be given in honor of Penelope Ann Clay. We welcome and encourage all yarn workers to look up a simple pattern and make some little creations. Arrangements will be made for a collection location soon.

Check your friendly Thrift Store for some donated yarn! Perhaps you have some to donate!

At the end of last year, Prayer Shawl Ministry members made two blankets for the Welcome Blanket project. The blankets were part of a display at MODA (Museum of Design Atlanta) and then were distributed to people who have recently arrived in the US. This is the link to this interesting program:

<https://www.welcomeblanket.org/blog/2018/12/18/welcome-blanket-at-moda>

We look forward to working with you and invite you to join us in the Winslow House every 3rd Thursday at 10:30 AM. A Zoom link will be active at that time for those not able or comfortable meeting in person.



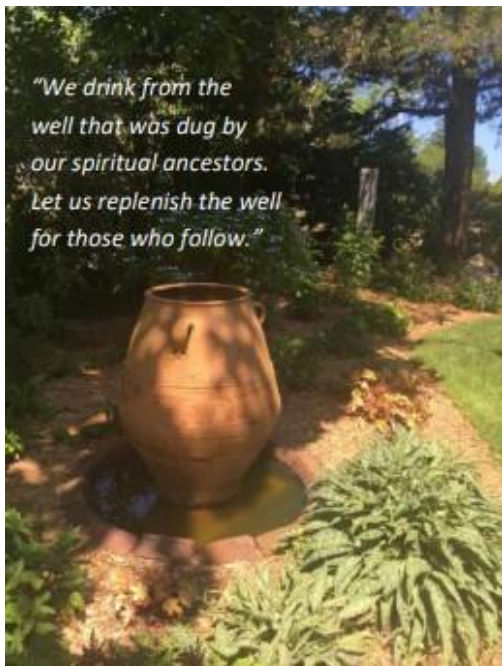
Happy Spring!

Everyone at the Brewster Thrift Store is waiting excitedly for the busy months ahead and we are gearing up for a successful spring and summer. If you have thought about volunteering at the Thrift Store, the warm weather season is the perfect time to lend a hand! Please email me at [celine@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:celine@firstparishbrewster.org) and we can get you started!

We will begin accepting donations of spring and summer clothing at the end of March. Donation day is Friday and we ask for you to keep your donations at the three bag or box limit. Clothing should be laundered prior to drop off. More donation guidelines can be found at [brewsterthriftstore.org](http://brewsterthriftstore.org).

Thank you to all of our volunteers and to everyone who has supported the Thrift Store!

Celine Crook, Thrift Store Manager



### From the Endowment Board

The First Parish Brewster Endowment Fund and the Endowment Board were established in 2002 under our By-Laws. The Endowment Board consists of five members, serving staggered terms, elected by the congregation at the annual meeting. The Endowment Board seeks to promote and encourage gifts to the Fund, oversees how the Fund is invested and approves distributions on an annual basis. The Cape Cod Five Trust and Asset Company manages and invests all of the funds in socially responsible Mutual Funds in consultation with the Endowment Board. Assets under management in the Fund as of December 31, 2021, totaled \$1,450,536.

The purpose of our Endowment Fund is to help secure, strengthen and extend the long-term survival and mission of First Parish Brewster and Unitarian Universalism. Since 2003, the Fund has distributed \$258,372 for special projects. The Endowment Fund is a gift from others who have come before us

and from many dedicated present members. It is our financial security.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support and contribute to the First Parish Brewster Endowment Fund, please contact any of our Board Members for more information: Linda Bailey-Davies, Robert Flanagan, Bruce MacGregor, Topper Roth, or Howard Hayes (Chair).



The Spring Festival & Auction is our biggest fundraiser and traditionally focuses on the contributions from within our church community. If you are new to FPBUU or have been a seasoned member, this is a must-attend event! And, it is never too early to get the creative juices flowing or the wheels turning to think of how you may be able to contribute and make a donation.

Do you have a craft you enjoy doing or a favorite meal you love to prepare? Do you have an activity or a class you could teach? **Here is an A-to-Z list of some ideas to help you come up with fun ways to participate.**

**Afternoon Tea - Artwork - Backyard Fun and Games - Board Games  
Birds, Bee's and Butterflies - Camping - Care Package - Chocolate Lovers - Cat Pamper  
Cooking Classes - Date Night Package - Delicious Delights - Dog Day Afternoon  
Down by the Sea - Everything's Coming Up Roses - Fair Trade Basket - Family Fun Pack  
Fitness Fun-Flower Garden  
Foodie Festival - Golf Round - Game On - Garden Delights - Gift Cards - Health Food  
Herb Garden - Ice Cream Social - Jewelry- Jogger's Basket - Just Desserts - Keep Calm  
Kids Cookies - Knit Wit - Let Them Eat Cake - Lessons for a Skill or Talent  
Mind, Body & Spirit - Movie Madness - Night Out - Organic Garden - Pampered Pet  
Patio & Deck - Puzzle Lovers - Photography Class  
Quilter's Basket - Rainy Day Activities - Road Trip - Sail Away - Sew What - Shape Up  
Soup Shoppe - Tasty Food Packages - Teatime Basket - Travel  
U Pick It Christmas Card Photo Shoot - Vineyards & More Wine Baskets  
Weekend Getaway Packages - Wine & Cheese - Xtreme Sports – Yoga  
Zumba Fitness -Zombie Survival Kit**

If you are out of ideas, then consider donating gift cards to your favorite restaurant, grocery store, or business you like to frequent. For those donating in the past, we thank you for your generous contributions and hope you will consider doing so again this year. If you have not previously donated, we ask that you be creative and help in any way you can. If you have any questions or some great ideas, please get in touch with Debbi Klein: [debbiklein@comcast.net](mailto:debbiklein@comcast.net) or (508) 783-1427

## Administration and Finance Ministries

Each Spring as the tiny green buds begin to poke up out of the ground, my faith is renewed as the Earth, herself, awakens from the long wintery slumber. I begin to notice things I had missed in the long, dark and quiet winter. Oh, how I missed the spring green that seems almost too green to be real. And there is nothing like the springtime melodies bellowed from the treetops and bogs to catch and turn my attention to all that is right with the world. Shall I say, peepers??!?

It's been a difficult winter on top of the challenges of navigating this seemingly unending pandemic. I am tired. I believe everyone is pretty tired at this point. This tired that we are all feeling is on so many levels, and it's not like anything most of us have experienced. So how do we keep getting up every morning and doing our best with this present moment? For me it starts with a deep breath and noticing. What thoughts are going through my head? How does my body feel? Can I just be with the soreness or anxiety, offering compassion to myself? What part of me needs my attention? The next step can be encapsulated with the slogan, Let Go and Let God and in the words of the Serenity Prayer. Each day I set out to nurture the beauty within and around me, but in order to do this, I must be present and grateful for the opportunity that is before me.

In faith,  
Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

It's not too early to begin thinking about attending the 2022 General Assembly (GA) being held at the Portland Oregon Convention Center. General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct the business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. In 2021, GA had more than 4,000 registered attendees participate from remote locations worldwide. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in person, we retain our dedication to the community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools.

For those missing the physical experience, GA 2022 will also feature face-to-face interactions, hanging banners, a browsable exhibit hall, meals with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! **Join us June 22 - 26, 2022, online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.**

For registration and information, go to the UUA's web site: <https://uua.org/ga>



## From the Board of Trustees

During this challenging time when our community has experienced trauma and grief, it is buoying to hear of so many instances of assistance and care offered by our members. In Rev Jessica's absence, we have in place an Executive Team and a Trauma Response Team to address as best we can the current needs of First Parish Brewster UU. It seems that grief and challenge have pulled us together as a church community. I have much gratitude for the efforts of so many leaders, who circle 'round to continue keeping this community thriving. Following the counsel of UUA Trauma Response, we are trying to set a slow and manageable pace.

Covid numbers are coming down, and there seems to be light ahead. It is wonderful to be working with Rev Bran, who is settling in nicely. Many congregants have spoken about how happy they are that they are with us.

I have been in contact with our Capital Campaign consultant Barry Finkelstein. He, Susan Flaws, and I are zeroing in on the dates of a *Next Steps Weekend* to involve many church leaders as we slowly turn our attention to the Capital Campaign in the spring.

Karena and I, along with volunteers, are working on getting the Winslow House living room refurbished. The old furniture has been taken away by a hauler for a reasonable price. We will try to freecycle or sell some pieces and dispose of the rest. We have hired a painter who has given a fresh neutral color to the walls. The new furniture, chosen by Rev Jessica before she left, is arriving. The Tech Task Force meets to push ahead, figuring out the best way to hybridize the living room, combining the benefits of live and virtual interaction to widen the circle in our meetings. A new, improved network system is also coming soon, with all needed upgrades, on both sides of the street.

The Staff continues to do an extraordinary job of working without the direct supervision they are used to in these very challenging times. They deserve our appreciation.

Susan Smith, President

### Board of Trustees

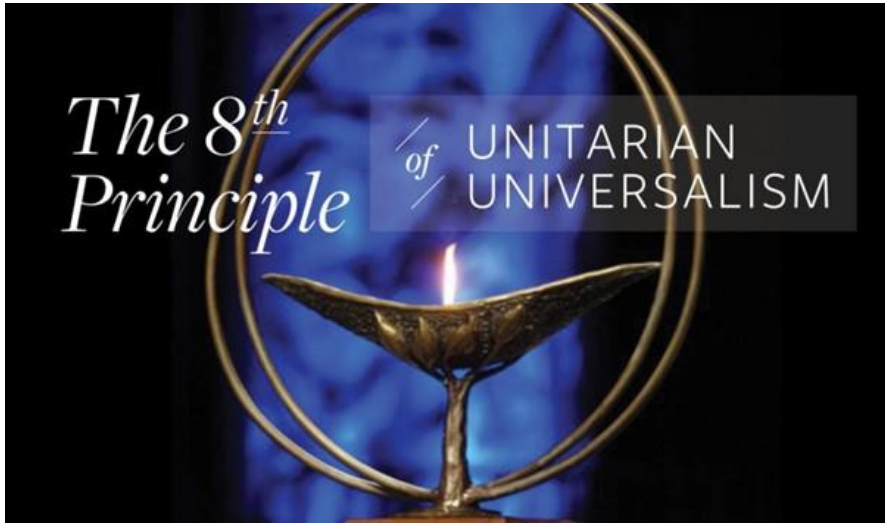
2021-2022

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



## Living Into the 8th Principle

One of the Board of Trustees' main goals for this year is to "widen our circle of welcome by creating a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming Beloved Community." We chose this vision of our future when we adopted the 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism (UU). The commitment to build Beloved Community involves personal development, congregational growth, and the advancement of social justice ministries.



To discover how other congregations have pursued these goals, the Board is reading *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*. This book describes the journey of five UU churches working to build a multiracial, antiracist Beloved Community. There is no single roadmap for this journey, but there are several common threads:

- intentionality
- relationships
- leadership that's diverse, committed, and collaborative
- education for multicultural competencies and antiracism
- institutionalized structures that support the multicultural, antiracist mission
- multigenerational worship and religious education
- worship that speaks to the heart and centers diverse voices, styles, and cultures
- social justice and community engagement
- adaptability and entrepreneurship
- a willingness to take risks and to feel uncomfortable
- patience, perseverance, courage, and humility
- a palpable aliveness and love.

"We all seek to build Beloved Community, to live fully into our humanity, and—above all—to answer the call of love." ...Karin Lin

Carol Yerby, President-Elect Board of Trustees



## Women's Circle Alliance

The Women's Circle Alliance has been designed 'to serve women of all ages by offering forum discussions and presentations on timely topics, fellowship/ sisterhood, and service to others.'



Despite the Covid challenges, we've gotten together and have had fun while tapping into our creative spirits with our wonderful guest presenters. At our autumn kick-off picnic at Drummer Boy Park, about 25 of us munched on our lunches and caught up with laughter, hugs, smiles, and sunshine, both nature's and our own!

After a few zoom planning meetings, a tentative program was created. Poet Chuck Madansky presented a most engaging hour via zoom. He read a few selections from his new book of poetry entitled *Some Days the Spoons Talk Back*. Then every one of us did a quickie exercise and actually created our piece of poetry and read them aloud. We are so very grateful to Chuck. Our next presentation was by our Wabi-Sabi Dancers, Margaret Rice-Moir, Mary Wallace, and Diane Ashley. Again, we created – this time, it was a dance with a partner set to a line or two from a quote given to us. We learned about "Wabi-Sabi" and were entertained and educated by their dances. Just amazing!

- On **March 9th** Rog Smith will present his new book, *The Conductor* (on zoom)
- **April 13th** will most likely bring *Build a Bigger Table*, which might be in person
- Perhaps we will end the season in **May** with another outdoor picnic...stay tuned!

Blessings, Linda Hladek



## FPBUU Committee Contacts List ~ March 2022

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

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

**Lifespan Religious Education** Twinks Hastings

**Membership Committee:** Marcia Kielb

**Music Ministry:** Kevin Badanes

**Policy Committee:** Karen Witting

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Pat Amos

**Right Relations Team:** Cari Keith

**Safe Congregation Committee:** Rev Jessica Clay\*

**Social Justice Committee:** Katharine Farnham

**Stewardship Committee:** Debbi Klein, Pat Stover

**Thrift Store Ministries:** Celine Crook

**UU Connections Committee:** Carol Ann Yeaple

**UUSC Fair Trade Sales:** Mary Wallace

**UU The Vote:** Tavia Ossola, Katherine Farnham

**Walking Group:** Donna Mercaldi, Mary Gamerman

**LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee:** TBD

**Women's Circle Alliance:** Linda Hladek

**Worship Associates:** Rev Jessica Clay\*

\*Currently Rev Jessica Clay is on leave.

**Administration & Finance Ministries:** Karena Stroh

**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)

**CYM Committee:** Elenita Muniz

**COVE (office volunteers) Team:** Karena Stroh

**Covenant Groups:** Maureen Osborne

**COVID-19 Taskforce:** Susan Smith

**Endowment Board:** Howard Hayes

**Fundraising Team:** Judy Harrison

**Finance Committee:** Diane Pansire

**Humanist Group:** Bob Marcus

**Landscape Committee:** Liz Gordon

**Leadership Development:** Judy Harrison

## Staff Directory

Church Office (508) 896-5577

**Minister:** Rev Jessica Clay *\*Currently on leave.*

**Leave Minister** (through May 10th ) Rev Bran Lennox (ext 308 [revbran@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:revbran@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 [twinks@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:twinks@firstparishbrewster.org)

Claudia Hardwicke, Childcare Provider

### **Music Ministries:**

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

**AV Tech Support:** Rikki Bates [rikki@firstparishbrewster.org](mailto:rikki@firstparishbrewster.org)

### Website/ Social Media

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



**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 Summer Angle*

**Due May 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)