

First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist

2023 Fall Quarterly



"Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors — in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

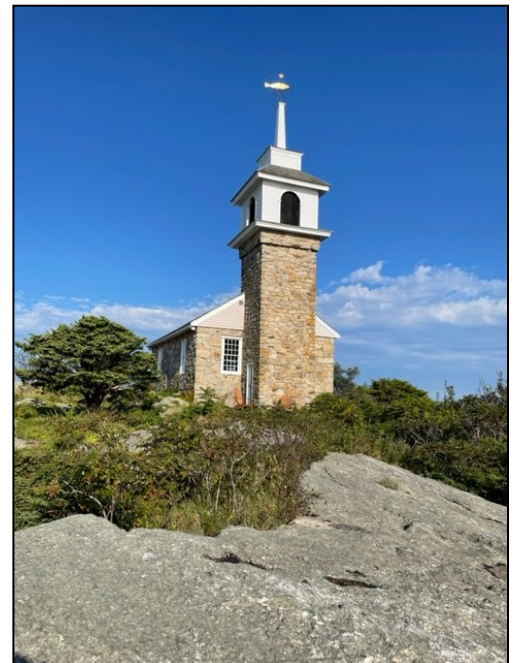
...Fred Rogers

In This Issue

Administration and Finance Ministries	2	Meetinghouse Motors	12
From the Minister	3	Financial Futures	13
From the Music Director	4	Membership Committee	13
Thrift Store	4	Women’s Circle Alliance	14
Small Group Ministry	5	Transition Team	14
UU the Vote	5	Building Maintenance Committee	15
UU Connections	6	Endowment Board	15
From the COVE Desk	6	Building a Bigger Table	16
Board of Trustees	7	Caring Committee	17
Fundraising Committee	8	Meetinghouse Speaker Series	17
FPBUU Policy Committee	9	From the Treasurer	18
Lifespan Religious Education Ministries	10	Committee Contacts List	19
Children and Youth Ministries	11	Staff Directory	20
Stewardship	12		

Administration and Finance Ministries

I finished my summer with a meditation retreat on Star Island. What a gift! I discovered this Sangha, a community devoted to a spiritual practice of meditating together, last year during my sabbatical. It has become a meaningful part of my self care. The welcome I received by this group of meditators was what kept me coming back throughout the year as members from around the world met via Zoom. At the in-person retreat last year and again this year, I was inspired by the deep sharing and vulnerability of all present, and it reminded me of how everyone is holding pain, sorrow, joy and all the complexities of being human. It’s right there below the surface, if we take the time to be with one another. I am convinced that 90% of building relationships is simply showing up and the other 10% is listening. Not waiting for my turn to speak, but really listening. The gift of presence is powerful. There are members of this Sangha that have taken a vow to end all suffering, which at first sounded idealistic and unachievable. But if I am honest, this is exactly what I believe we need more of. Not scaling back our goals to what we think is doable because the fact is, we are not alone, and many hands make light work. When I hear the word heritage, I typically think about the past, but what if we flipped it and explored what we want the ones coming after us to inherit? What if we worked towards something with a commitment to ending all suffering without really knowing how it will come to be. I don’t mean to say this is the easy path, but more and more I see it is the only path to live a life full of meaning. Not as concerned with my individual needs and wants, but what was I incarnated here at this time to do? Sometimes when I feel overwhelmed by the suffering of the world, I turn my struggle over to God, and practice the simple yet powerful act of being willing to be willing. I don’t have to know where we are going to be generous in spirit and take the next right action. Will you join me?



Karena Stroh, Administration and Finance Director

From Our Minister

Friends,

What a pleasure to be here amongst you. Your warm welcome and enthusiasm for me being here is greatly appreciated. I'm really looking forward to working with you all over the next two years.

I wanted to give you a heads up about the next couple months and worship themes. This year's UU worship themes are a particular treasure, as they are conceived with the overarching frame ***The Gifts of Our Faith***. We'll focus on ten beloved UU values and explore their potential to shape us and in turn shape the world.

September- Welcoming

Welcoming is so much more than the big openness of spirit and playing the host. It involves that deeper spiritual connection between the smallness of self and the expansiveness of relationship. Not only will we welcome one another together for our Ingathering Service, but we'll look at how to think of a grander, more expansive welcome to those who don't know about us, and, finally, how to welcome in the truths inherent in the practice and embodiment of forgiveness as we celebrate Yom Kippur together.

October- Heritage

What a month this will be. It often helps me to think of the difference between history and heritage as I contemplate the delicate relationship between history, shouting- "It's important to know where we came from!" and heritage's call reminding us "You matter! Even more than you know." This month will take us on many explorations of who we have been in our past as UU's and how holding onto that heritage can help us respond and experience our own times, mindfully, wholly and of service.

November- Generosity

I had a mentor once who was asked if he could distill his ministry of 40 plus years into a single thought or idea. After thinking about it for a while, he came up with this. "The religious person is the grateful person; the grateful person is the generous person." I'm so intrigued about living a life of generosity and what gets us there. So often we live out of a place of scarcity that we can't get to the abundance that surrounds us and fills us. So let's dive into this rich and meaty topic. Can't wait!

I feel honored and blessed to be among you.

In faith and service, Rev. Kaaren



Thrift Store

The Thrift Store has been extremely busy this summer, so it's no surprise that the summer months have gone by in a blink of an eye. All the Thrift Store volunteers have gone above and beyond to create a lively, fun, and popular destination for locals and visitors alike.

In August, Dr. Lori, a national antique appraiser/thrift store aficionado, visited us. Dr. Lori is a well-known celebrity on YouTube and has been featured on the History and Discovery channels. Dr. Lori spent about 3 hours in our Thrift Store being filmed while she looked through our wares and appraised and evaluated what she found. The videos should be ready this fall, and we will include a link on our social media pages and our website.



We are now accepting fall and winter clothing donations. Just a reminder that clothing must be laundered and folded. We cannot accept clothing with stains, rips, missing buttons, etc. More of our donation guidelines can be found on our website: www.brewsterthriftstore.org. If you haven't visited the Thrift Store lately, please stop by. We would love to see you!

Celine Crook, Thrift Store Manager

Music to Magnetize

As I embark on rounding out my first full and happy year directing music at FPBUU, I intend to feature music that magnetizes! Choir will rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:45, perform two services a month, and the wind/brass ensemble will also reconvene. Now is a great time to jump in and join the music-making. All levels of experience are welcome.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our summer Pickup/Popup Choir on several Sundays! It was like opening a wonderful present every time because I never knew who would show up to sing. We had what I call a microwave rehearsal from 8:30-9:30 and, then – ready, set, serenade!

Our summer Wednesday evening Open Music Gatherings were attended with great enthusiasm. Some popular offerings featured Handpan/Tongue and Drum and Sacred Circle Dance. Both of these events revealed buds that may well branch into new and fulfilling artistic directions. Stay tuned . . .

Do you have musical guests in mind who have never performed at FPBUU or who haven't come in a while? If so, I would love to know about them. The church community is receptive to many styles of music, so it's a fantastic place for artists to perform and share their talent and skills. I'm also always open to hearing song or piece suggestions. You might not hear a song right away, but I will add it to an entire spreadsheet I keep that's devoted to future possibilities, and I fold them in whenever I can. You can email me anytime or talk to me after church.



I look forward to a resplendent fall with everyone!

Kaeza Fearn, Music Director

Covenant Groups – A Program of Small Group Ministry

Covenant Groups of 6-10 people meet on one designated weekday each month, October through May, for 1.5 to 2 hours. Group members share insights and personal experiences on monthly themes. We practice “deep listening” to one another without critique, response, or crosstalk. Through this practice, we grow to form lasting connections while also participating in a congregation-wide dialogue centering on each month’s spiritual theme. This year’s overarching frame is *The Gifts of Our Faith*, which focuses on the following themes and explores their potential to shape us and the world.

2023-24 Themes

The Gift of...

September: Welcome

October: Heritage

November: Generosity

December: Mystery

January: Liberating Love

February: Justice & Equity

March: Transformation

April: Interdependence

May: Pluralism

June: Renewal



We do not meet until October, and in June, we typically meet to share a meal in a social context, celebrating our year of spiritual connection. Covenant Groups are a great way for new and old congregation members to get to know each other at a deeper level. We currently have seven groups that include all-Zoom, hybrid (combined in-person and Zoom), and all-in-person, with a choice of morning, afternoon, and evening times. If you have remained in one group for several years, you might consider joining a different group to get a fresh perspective.

To read a more detailed program description, go to:

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

For questions, contact Maureen Osborne, Chair, DocOsbo@gmail.com;
call or text 610 613-7590.

UU the VOTE 

Our committee, consisting of Katharine Farnham and Tavia Ossola, is ready to begin a new round of letters and postcards. We will be provided with mailing lists and letter content. We will inform the congregation when the list and the letters or postcards are ready for pickup. They will be available at the Barn, and a return date will be provided. We are interested in a couple of new members who might be able to help us with some of our printing needs. Can you help? Can you serve? It’s not a full-year commitment, and your help would be greatly appreciated. Now more than ever, the goal is to get people from across the country to the polls—people who will vote to save our democracy. We are at a critical point in this country’s future.

Thank you to all of you who have participated in the past, and we hope you will assist again this year and encourage new members to participate in UU The Vote as well. If you want to join the committee, RSVP to Katharine or Tavia.

UU Connections

Article 2

UUConnections recommends this UUA link to an overview of the Article 2 process:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

We look forward to continued discussion within our faith community about this change.

Unitarian Universalism's Principles in Simpler Language

Unitarian Universalists have many ways of articulating our seven Principles in more straightforward language. Here's a link to the way our *Tapestry of Faith children's Programs* describe them: <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles/for-kids>

Common Read

On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World is the 2023/2024 UU Common Read. Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg centers a crucial new lens on repentance, atonement, forgiveness, and repair from harm - from personal transgressions to our culture's most painful and unresolved issues - critiquing an American culture that tends to prioritize redemption narratives and letting go of grudges.

Although based on traditional Jewish concepts, this read is accessible to folks of any or no religious background. *On Repentance and Repair* is for all who are committed to creating a society and culture more whole than the one in which we live and for anyone who has been hurt or is struggling to take responsibility for their mistakes.

UUConnections will have a workshop at FPBUU on this book, but we'd like to know who is interested in joining in and what time of day or evening people prefer. Don't hesitate to contact UUConnections: Jim Hild, Marietta Nilson and Carol Ann Yeaple to voice your opinion. Phone or text: 508 221-7703.

There are online discussion groups around the book as well. For details: <https://www.uua.org/read>

From the COVE Desk

As a new member of First Parish Brewster, COVE Volunteers was a curious label I didn't understand. My curiosity led me to a great opportunity to connect and contribute.

We are the office volunteers who answer phones, help inquiring visitors, work on the website, maintain the church calendar with events and space reservations, craft the Order of Service, publish the newsletters (Weekly and Quarterly Angles) and update the Parish Hallway Slideshow...Whew!

There are three primary benefits for me: I get to feel helpful in supporting the work of First Parish Brewster, meet an interesting bunch of people, and be part of a FPBUU team.

If you, as a new or long-time member, want to become helpful, connected, and not anonymous, have a good morning in a positive space; consider this an invitation to join the COVE Team. We are a friendly bunch who believe humor is essential to a successful day. ~Bob Spencer



Interested? Stop by the office, Monday - Thursday 9 am - 12 pm,
email cove@firstparishbrewster.org
or call 508 896-5577

From the Board of Trustees

It has been a time of transition at First Parish Brewster UU since the Spring Quarterly Angle appeared on March 6, 2023. Rev. Jessica's daughter Elanor arrived in early March to great fanfare, and Rev. Kenn Hurto stepped in on April 1 as Leave Minister during her parental leave. Then, in early April, Rev. Jessica announced that, after six years as our minister, she would be leaving FPB for a 1,000+ member UU congregation in the suburbs of Minneapolis, the next step in her journey. Completing the UUA's whirlwind search process, in late May, FPB matched with Rev. Kaaren Anderson as our Interim Minister to lead us through the transition to our next settled minister. We are fortunate to have a strong congregation committed to working through this transition.

We have strengthened our finances considerably over the past year and anticipate further strengthening over the next several years in terms of pledge growth and other funding sources. In addition, the energy of our members has not faltered through the recent years of pandemic or these more recent turbulent times. As just one piece of evidence of that, over 50 congregants are assisting with our new SNO@UU program being held, as I write this during the last two weeks of August.

If you are not yet familiar with that program, its goal, as described by Twinks Hastings, Director of the program and our Lifespan Religious Education Director, is to: "fill a community need for children's programming during the two weeks after summer camps have ended and school has begun. With diverse activities geared around environmental and social justice themes, we hope our 'Adventurers' will have fun, make friends, and learn that kindness rules!"



Trustees: (Left to right) Carol, Karen, Gail, John, Liz, Jim, Diane, Leslie, Irie

Board of Trustees 2023-2024

Jim Lieb, President
Gail Webb, President-Elect
Carol Yerby, Past President
Karen Witting, Treasurer
Irie Mullen, Clerk
Members-At-Large:
Liz Cable
John Kielb
Leslie Rennie-Hill
Diane Willcox

Perhaps our single greatest issue as we search for our next settled minister will be how to address the crises in the availability and cost of housing on Cape Cod. On March 26, we held an information session to discuss that issue and possible solutions for our then-settled minister. As we focus on retaining our next settled minister, we will need to redouble the efforts to address the need for housing, focusing on the alternatives we can offer to attract the best candidates. You will be hearing more about this during the Fall.

Jim Lieb, Board of Trustees, President

Fundraising Committee

The FUNdraising Committee plans various events for FPBUU members and the surrounding community. We work hard to provide multiple events that appeal to many people, unite our community, and raise money to support First Parish Brewster UU's programs.

We have scheduled an *After Sunday Service Brunch* in September and a return to the *Meetinghouse Concert Series* in November. The *Craft Group*, which meets to create "one-of-a-kind items" to sell during our Holiday Fair, will continue to gather and look forward to more members to come join in on the fun while getting "your craft on"!

We want to thank Pamela Phipps and Liz Gordon for opening their beautiful gardens during the Hydrangea Festival! Thank you, Pamela and Liz, for raising \$732 for FPBUU!

FUNdraising Committee: Rand Burkert, Barb Draper, Susan Flaws, Judy Jollett, Mary Jo Jollett, Vicki Kendziorski, Debbi Klein(Chair), Patsy Roberts, Rog Smith, Carol Yerby.

Here are more details of some of the fundraising programs:

After Sunday Service Brunch – Sunday, September 17th at noon

Who loves to enjoy good friends and good food during Sunday Brunch? We heard you and we planned an event to check off all the boxes!

This coming Sunday, the FPBUU FUNdraising Committee will have its first After Service Sunday Brunch. Thank you to Paula and Jim Lieb, Barb and Rick Draper, and Debbi and Ed Klein for opening their homes and hosting this event!! Invitations were emailed out to the FPBUU community and within in a few days we SOLD OUT! WOW what an incredible response!!



Given the big interest and quick response, we would like to schedule more Sunday Brunches in the future. Do you like to entertain, plan fun menus, gather with friends, and look forward to meeting new friends? Would you consider hosting a Sunday Brunch (even consider co-hosting)? Please contact Debbi Klein.

Meetinghouse Concert Series – Sunday, November 19th, 2 pm The Meetinghouse Concert Series was conceived after our beautiful Meetinghouse's reconstruction in 2010. The series hosted many wonderful performers and was a popular venue for First Parish Brewster UU members and the community. We are excited to bring the concert series back but with a few new twists. Is it possible to combine music and social justice? Music and education? Music and culture? Of course! We are committed to merging all these elements into the program!



On November 19th, our first performance will be the return of a favorite, Jacqueline Schwab. From the soundtracks of Ken Burns' documentaries to the White House to the PBS American Roots special with The American Pops Orchestra, pianist Jacqueline Schwab is known for evoking the American musical past, but in a fresh, personal way. Jacqueline will share her program, *I Lift My Lamp*, a celebration of immigrant music from Western and Eastern Europe, Latin and South America, and will also include African-American spirituals, Tin Pan Alley tunes, and Ragtime.

Fundraising Committee (more fundraising programs)

Purchasing Food Cards Is there any such thing as free money? There is!! Just by buying food cards, we generate money for First Parish! If you purchase your groceries from Stop and Shop or Shaw's, FPB offers food cards in \$100, \$50, & \$25 denominations that, when purchased, we get 5 percent of the cost!



For example, by purchasing \$400 in food cards monthly, FPBUU receives \$20. If you continue to purchase monthly throughout the year, FPB will earn \$240.

Last year we raised \$964! Let's see if we can increase that \$\$\$ this year! The more people can participate and purchase the food cards, the more money we can raise. Food cards can be purchased with CASH or CHECK during Sunday coffee hour and at the Winslow office, Mon-Thurs, 9-Noon.

Craft Group Crafties Workshops After last year's Holiday Fair, an idea was hatched by Elenita Muniz and Tavia Ossola – to gather and make crafted items to support FPBUU and sell at our FUNdraising events. Throughout the spring, a group of "Crafties" gathered to develop some creative ideas and craft items to sell at our Spring Festival. This idea was successful, and the Holiday Fair Gift Shop raised \$750! Our craft mornings were so productive and fun that we decided to continue in the fall.

This past summer, we made driftwood (collected on Cape Cod beaches), sailboat ornaments, paper collage bookmarks, and decoupage boxes with vintage stamps to include in the upcoming Holiday Fair Gift Shop.



This fall, we will resume our Wednesday morning crafting sessions. Once a month, we will do an evening craft session for those who cannot make it a daytime event. These dates will be announced in the fall as we get closer.

Meanwhile, please let us know if you have a good, easy-to-make idea! Questions or ideas? Contact Elenita Muñiz at munizelinata2@gmail.com or Tavia Ossola at 508 896-6225.

FPBUU Policy Committee



The role of the FPBUU Policy Committee is to respond to requests by the Board of Trustees (BOT) to develop language, in the form of policies, to guide and inform the actions and decisions of both individuals and groups in ways consistent with FPBUU's mission and values. Once approved by the BOT, these policies are posted on the FPBUU website. The Committee meets monthly from September through May/June.

During 2022-23, the Committee produced two new policies (Use and Protection of Personal Data and Conflict of Interest (Boards)). In addition, the Committee developed significant revisions to five existing policies (Communication, Financial Controls, Donation Acceptance, Fundraising, and Board Meetings).

Committee Members: Marilee Crocker, Topper Roth (Chair), Lindsey Straus, and Karen Witting. John Kielb is the Board of Trustees liaison to the Committee.

Lifespan Religious Education Ministries: Fostering Community, Growth, and Wonder

The Unitarian Universalist (UU) tradition emphasizes inclusivity, open-minded exploration, and the celebration of diverse spiritual journeys. Within this framework, the Lifespan Ministry plays a crucial role in nurturing the next generation's spiritual and personal development. This summer the SNO@UU program was a testament to the congregation's generosity, community engagement, and commitment to creating spaces that inspire awe and wonder.

Summer SNO@UU Program: A Time for Growth and Exploration

This Summer's SNO@UU program welcomed children and youth of all backgrounds, providing them with a safe and supportive environment to explore spirituality, build relationships, and engage with the natural world. Through a series of engaging activities, thoughtful discussions, and creative projects, participants were encouraged to question, learn, and grow.

Generosity in Action: Volunteers and Community Welcome

A distinctive feature of the Unitarian Universalist Children and Youth Ministry is the unwavering commitment of volunteers. The success of programs like Summer SNO@UU hinges on the generosity of individuals who contribute their time and expertise. These dedicated volunteers understand the value of fostering a community that nurtures curiosity, empathy, and inclusivity. By extending a warm welcome to families from all walks of life, the UU congregation exemplifies the core values of the faith. A deep and personal thank you to Laura Gill, Susan Smith, Christine McDowell, and our three counselors Haley, Via, and Julia.

Creating Magical Spaces: Fostering Awe and Wonder

Exciting developments are underway within the Children and Youth Ministry, with the creation of a magical new kid's space. This enchanting space encompasses a forest-themed area, an awe and wonder room, a maker's space, and an arts and crafts area. Each of these spaces has been thoughtfully designed to ignite children's imaginations, encourage exploration, and provide opportunities for self-expression. This expansion of physical spaces reflects the UU commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are both spiritually grounded and creatively inspired.

Personal Joy

As your director of Lifespan Religious Education, I find immense joy in witnessing the growth and transformation of the young minds and hearts under our care. Seeing the smiles, hearing the laughter, and observing the genuine connections that children and youth form is a reminder of the positive impact our efforts have on the community. I also find the same joy in witnessing the adults in our community grow in their own spiritual journeys.

Looking ahead, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the future of our Lifespan Ministry. Expanding the magical kid's space is a testament to our dedication to innovation and continuous improvement. It is an affirmation of our commitment to providing a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment that empowers young individuals to embark on their unique spiritual and personal journeys.

We are also working on a robust, fun, adult education program that will do for our adults what CYM does for our children - we might even invite you into the children's space!

In conclusion, our Lifespan Ministry, highlighted by the Summer SNO@UU program, stands as a shining example of the UU tradition's emphasis on community, inclusivity, and growth. Through the generosity of volunteers, the warmth of community welcome, and the creation of awe-inspiring spaces, this ministry not only enriches the lives of the children and youth it serves but also contributes to the flourishing of the entire congregation. As an eyewitness to these efforts, I am filled with gratitude and enthusiasm for the journey ahead.

Twinks Hastings, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Children and Youth Ministries (CYM)

The CYM Committee supports and helps to carry out the vision and the work of our Lifespan Religious Education Director. Our mission is to serve the children joyfully, youth, and families of FPB and beyond by creating a safe, playful, and sacred community grounded in our UU principles and values. We invite people of all ages to be participants in opening hearts and minds, growing souls, and turning love into justice.

This August, CYM Committee members helped design, staff, and bring to life the SNO@UU program that offered end-of-summer programming to children from the community when other childcare opportunities have vanished. SNO@UU has been a rollicking success, widely embraced by the community for its social justice mission.

As the fall begins, we look forward to helping create new multigenerational programs that will meet the ever-evolving needs of our families. The CYM Committee is always searching for new volunteers to join our work. We thank Kathy Meyers and Kristin Knowles for their years of CYM service. We are delighted that both will continue participating as consultants for the annual pageant and other special events. Current members are Dale Cotter, John Emilian, Laura Gill, Deborah Madansky, Deb Selkow (Chair), and Claudia Williams.

Deb Selkow, CYM Chair





Stewardship

Our campaign for this fiscal year 23-24 was very successful. Our member-to-member solicitation was completed, mostly in person, and brought approximately 75% of our members into a meeting with another member. The discussions focused on how and why First Parish Brewster UU was important to each of us and what we could do to support our beloved church.

This year, we have had an initial meeting on the team to clarify our pledge members list, our waived member list, and our emeritus member list. We hope that by the end of June 2024, we will have raised an additional \$24,000 for this fiscal year.

We are interested in new members to assist in planning FY 24-25's campaign. Working together is always fun as we look for new ways to appeal to each member and support First Parish Brewster UU. The campaign's theme is often important in creating generosity. Our generosity over many years has made First Parish Brewster UU a vibrant place with an interesting heritage. We aim to continue defining ourselves as social justice leaders and create new justice-seeking endeavors.

Our individual pledges represent our overall commitment to First Parish Brewster, our membership, and the church's work for the congregation and the wider community. For further information, please get in touch with Tavia Ossola or Debbi Klein.

Committee Members: Susan Flaws, Debbi Klein (Co-chair), Tavia Ossola (Co-chair), and Susan Smith.



Meetinghouse Motors

Have you ever wondered how to turn a 25-year-old pickup truck into a \$1,580 donation into the FPBUU Sustainability Fund? Alex knows how. He lives in North Carolina and had a banged-up, unused 1998 Toyota Tacoma pickup he wanted to be rid of. Being a friend of First Parish, he reached out, and we connected him with Meetinghouse Motors. His truck was hauled and sold in a couple of weeks, creating a donation of \$1,580 for First Parish Brewster. Thanks, Alex!

Got a Car/ Truck / RV / Motorboat or Motorcycle not being used and taking up space? [CLICK HERE](#) to donate a car to First Parish Brewster UU through the Cars for Charity Vehicle Donation Program, or send us an email; we'll be happy to help you out. MeetinghouseMotors@gmail.com.

Welcome To The New Church Year From Membership!

The Membership Committee is looking forward to building on past initiatives and working with Rev. Kaaren to do an even better job of welcoming, informing, and integrating new folks into the life of our FPBUU community in the coming year.

Some highlights in the last quarter include offering regular orientations after services every other month for visitors and new members; creating an updated list of groups with contact information for members to connect with activities that align with their interests; and developing a list of short-term ways to volunteer such as bringing flowers for the chancel or food for coffee hour on a Sunday morning or becoming a greeter before the service.



We received a lot of positive feedback on the 2023 Dine Around with UUs series as a “wonderful way to get to know fellow church members better,” so we are doing it again! The sign-ups for the 2024 Dine Arouns will take place from mid-October to mid-December. Watch the Angle for more information, and don’t miss your chance to be part of these informal opportunities to socialize with other UUs. Dates for the 2024 dinners are January 21, February 18, March 17, and April 21 (third Sunday).

For the fall, we are focused on growing our Sunday Greeter Team. This is a low-pressure commitment and a great way to connect with people. Contact Paula at PaulaSLiebMA@outlook.com if you want to become a greeter or have questions about the above information.

Welcome to a wonderful new church year full of possibilities!

Financial Futures Tiger Team

SNO@UU: This summer program aligns with our mission of serving families, with social justice themes woven throughout and providing an additional revenue source. Thanks to Twinks, Laura Gill, Christine McDowell, Susan Smith and 50 hard-working volunteers for the launch of this initiative.

Energy Group and Battery Storage: We’ve contracted with ATP Network LLC of Ashby, MA. ATP links revenue-generating opportunities concerning battery storage facilities with churches and others. Battery Energy Storage Systems evens usage in our electric grid during peak times and power outages. FPB could receive a substantial yearly income with no upfront costs if successful.

Meetinghouse Motors: The truck donation resulted in \$1,580. We brainstorm ways to amplify and publicize this program, seeking unwanted cars, trucks, motorcycles, and motorboats on Cape Cod.

Rental Income: Volunteers have been cleaning, decluttering, and staging areas around the campus to get them more “camera ready” as attractive rental spaces. We are concentrating on the Barn, currently the campus for SNO@UU, but in the future, more attractive, usable areas for rental as well. We are revisiting our rental pricing structure.

Grants: Grants recently awarded, and being applied for again in this church year, are those from the Cultural Councils of Brewster, Dennis & Orleans, & Cape Cod 5 for *Meetinghouse Speaker Series* and the UUA for *UUtheVote*. Our grants subgroup continues to monitor possible suitable grants. FPB is working on becoming a 501c3, which has been a barrier in the application process.

Members: John Emilian, Margaret Emmet, Laura Gill, Howard Hayes, John Kielb, Jim Lieb, Susan Smith, Jeff Talmadge, Gail Webb, Carol Yerby & Kris Yerby.

Women's Circle Alliance

Our WCA Steering Committee has been busy throughout the summer planning our new season of varied and exciting programs for our new church year. Our calendar for the whole year needs to be finalized, but here are some programs that might pique your interest:



- Our “Bring Your Own Lunch Picnic” – **Wednesday, September 13th at Noon** in the Parish Room. We will review our tentative line-up for the new year. Bring any program suggestions you may have and join us in welcoming Rev. Kaaren.
- Dr. Molly Purdue will discuss Alzheimer's Disease and present Alzheimer's resources.
- "Wabi Sabi" – Margaret Rice Moir and other members will share their creativity and perhaps surprise you with yours!

Among other planned programs, we'll have an art project, some poetry, affordable housing, perhaps some dogs, and a music program to entertain us at our December Holiday Gathering!

Coordinating collations for memorial services has been one of the service responsibilities of the Women's Circle Alliance. We offer a warm, inviting space with refreshments and emotional comfort for grieving friends and family.

The Alliance has been around since the 1800s. We encourage you to join us for our monthly gatherings, usually held in our FPBUU Parish Room. Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. We typically gather at 1 pm for refreshments and socializing, with our programs starting at 1:30 pm and ending around 2:30ish. Details for upcoming programming will be published in the Weekly Angle. We hope to see you soon!

Transition Team

During our interim search, we worked with and were supported by Keith Kron, the UUA Director of Ministerial Transitions. In his book *In The Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations*, he writes, “more congregations now intentionally take the interim period to assess themselves and make their congregations richer, more vibrant places to be a Unitarian Universalist in the 21st century.”

We must meet members, visitors, families, and seekers where they are and not necessarily just on Sunday mornings. The work ahead of us is our work, not Rev. Kaaren's. We will learn from Rev. Kaaren and other UU guides, including Barry Finkelstein, our financial consultant.

The initial Transition Team meeting is set for September 14th with the Board, the Transition Team, and Committee Chairs. We will gather input, name our priorities, and chart our course for this important interim time. There is much energy around this from many congregants. FPB is poised to move forward with positivity and joy as we listen to all voices. Our vision and mission are important ones. Outreach is critical to reach those members and friends who need us.

Transition Team: Rev. Kaaren Anderson, Marilee Crocker, Barb Draper, Irie Mullen, Elenita Muniz, Chuck Ross, Susan Smith, David Sutherland.



Building Maintenance Committee Preserving Heritage

Preserving heritage is the charge of the Building Maintenance Committee. The second largest expense in the FPBUU annual budget is for building maintenance. Why? Mostly because of our five buildings (Meeting House, Parish Hall, Dawes Hall, Barn, and Winslow House), three are historic antiques. Twelve years ago, we spent \$1.6 million preserving our Meeting House. But here's the thing about old buildings: they're never finished!



Preserving a historic building is a special challenge. A current BMC work-in-progress is repairing two areas of rot in the Meeting House balcony window sills. Removing and replacing the sills would entail an enormous expense, as these spruce sills are 3" thick and run the full width of each double window. While it's not customary for our committee to do the work ourselves, in this case, Judy Fenner is calling on her 35-year history of boat restoration for the task. Judy is going to install a "Dutchman" in the two sills with rot. This entails digging out the rotten wood and creating a wooden replacement that exactly fits the hole left behind. She will use epoxy to fasten in the new wood, then it will be primed and painted to match.

The first step has been to dry out the wood, which involved Kris Yerby and Roger Smith sitting in the open windows with hairdryers. Judy removed most of the rot and is currently waiting for a good clear full day, with no rain before or after, to create and install the Dutchmen.

Heritage matters. As stewards of our historic campus, we want the work to be well-done, to endure, and to reduce the long-term expense of maintenance. New members are always welcome on our committee!

Committee Members:

Dave Caolo, Judy Fenner, Wayne Jenkins, Elenita Muñiz , Roger Smith, Karena Stroh and Kris Yerby.

From the Endowment Board

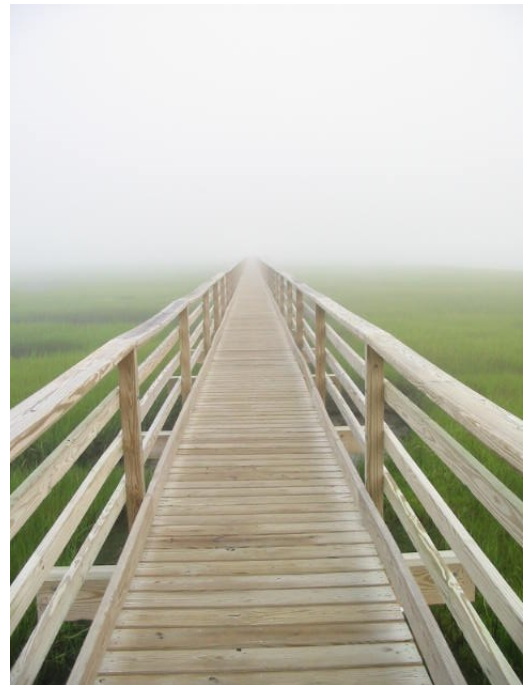
The First Parish Brewster UU Endowment Board was established in 2002. In the past twenty-one years, the Endowment Fund has distributed well over \$300,000 in support of building and office projects as well as youth and adult programming.

All of this has been made possible by the generous gifts and bequests to the Endowment Fund. Many gifts have been made in memory of loved ones. Most recently, the Endowment Fund has received gifts in memory of long-time members

**Joan Barnard, Carol Chichetto,
John Myers and Dwight Woodson.**

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

Endowment Board: Linda Bailey-Davies, Bob Flanagan (Chair), Howard Hayes, Barry Powers (Recording Secretary), and Topper Roth (Financial Secretary).



Remembering Mary Jane



The *Building a Bigger Table* Committee pays tribute to the life and spirit of Mary Jane McDonald. Mary Jane (or “M. J.” as some of us knew her) was a lively and bright woman filled with positive energy. Her children remember her doing cartwheels on the front lawn and playing tennis on the afternoon their house had caught fire in the morning.

She was very much involved in what her son Alan calls “do-good” activities. She was an active volunteer at the Museum of Natural History and Habitat for Humanity as well as many activities at First Parish Brewster UU. Many of us may have met her in the office when she was a COVE volunteer. She lived to be 93 years old.

When the invasion of Ukraine took place Mary Jane was no longer with us, but her children carried her spirit forward by offering the lovely Brewster Park summer home left to them by their mother as a temporary home for Ukrainian refugees. And that is how Sveltiana, Ruslan, Vlady, and Oleksandra came to live in Brewster last year. Thank you M.J. and thank you, Alan, Martha, Sue and Bruce.



Mary Jane at 91, kayaking with her son Alan
“She cared, she was thoughtful, smart, and she was active, she was a great Mom” -Alan McDonald

Building a Bigger Table Update on Families

The Gonzalez Family: After three years in Union City, NJ, they moved to Jersey City to a furnished former parsonage for \$1,000 a month for the first year. They liked having many neighbors previously and are finding their way in the new location, including new buses to get to work and the church where they used to go. But they have been to the beach with Rev. Jill and have appointments for uniforms and medical needs. They have their work permits, Social Security cards, and a July 2024 proposed court date for their asylum status.

Worcester Family: In May, Sue and Pat Gubbins and two of their kids visited Cecilia and Charles, whose car is not good enough to travel to the Cape. Cecilia and Charles are baking meat pies to sell along with other work.

Ukrainian Family: They moved out of the McDonald home in Brewster in June. Ruslan now has his own one-bedroom apt. in Dennis, and Lana is there too with Vlady. Her mother is in Natick in public housing with another Ukrainian family nearby.

Ntumba Family: They will be speaking at Brewster Ladies Library in October. Tony works in Sagamore. They have a car now, making it easier than taking buses. Their daughter, Joelle, goes to school in Hyannis.

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee members spent 2022-2023 responding to approximately 30 members monthly. The members welcomed and appreciated the visits, chats, phone calls, and even outings.

Over the years, committee members focused more on in-kind services, like delivering soup and a meal to a member in need, rides to appointments, and visits. The Covid crisis brought on isolation in a way we had not experienced before.



Because of the generosity of our Committee members, we were able to engage with more members, provide more services and get to know one another better and care about each member getting to know each other in a whole new way. We were involved with members and their families as they dealt with joyful times, and they were also involved with our members when they lost a loved one.

From September to June, our hope for this year is to continue involvement with congregants who want support in the form of a visitor or friend. We also want to invite all interested in serving to attend our first meeting on Tuesday, September 5, at 11 AM in the Winslow House. We welcome your interest and involvement. Our meeting is on Monday, October 2, at 11 AM in the Parish Room, where we will present information on working with folks with memory loss issues. Our facilitator for that meeting will be Tia Cross.

We will also do three cookie visits this year, bringing a plate of cookies and a small gift to each person at home alone or in some care. For more information or questions, please get in touch with Tavia Ossola 508-237-9919.

Meetinghouse Speaker Series Voices of Cape Cod

This monthly series is an initiative of the *Social Justice Committee* and the *Reparations Task Force*.

Here is a partial line-up of this year's events including a well-attended event this last Saturday:

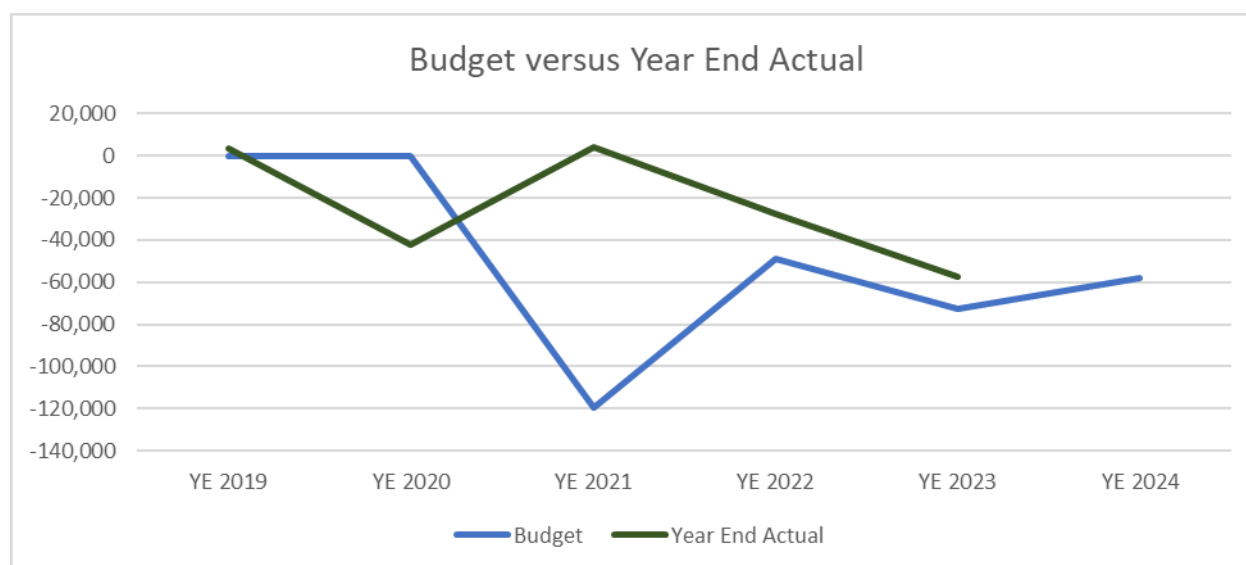
- **Saturday, Sept 9: 10 am** **Marcus Hendricks (Waban Webquish)** is a Wampanoag/Nipmuc historian, naturalist, artist, and guide who provides education on the history and traditions of his cultural heritage through a guided walk.
- **Sunday, Sept 24: 2-4 pm** **Leslie Jonas, Native Land Conservancy, Inc.** nativelandconservancy.org will show her three films "Earth," "Water," and "Air"
- **Sunday, Oct 1: 2-4 pm** **Mwalim Peters**, a professor of English and African American studies at UMass Dartmouth. Multi-award-winning, Grammy-nominated interdisciplinary artist, writer, and educator.
- **Sunday, Nov 12: 2-4 pm** **Carl Lopes**, Cape Verdean artist
- **Sunday, Dec 3: 2-4 pm** **Toodie Coombs**, showing the film "We Still Live Here" about the Wampanoag Language Reclamation Project

Members: Dianne Ashley, Tia Cross, Barb Draper, Janet Riggs
Rosanne Shapiro, Susan Smith, Sue Trask, and Mary Wallace

From the Treasurer

At FPBUU the Summer is always a time of transition, as we close out one Fiscal Year and start a new one. This past Summer brought us even greater transitions as we move into interim Ministry with Kaaren. We look forward to welcoming her and beginning the next year together.

As a reflection of the past several years I've created the graph below to provide a high-level view of our financial approach since the Pandemic. In this graph the blue line represents our Budget Net Income, meaning our Budgeted Income minus Expenses. The green line represents the Year End actuals, Income minus Expenses. Prior to the Pandemic, the goal was a zero-based budget, and in 2019 our actuals were right on target. Our 2020 fiscal year, ending June 2020, was understandably bad, we went from a Net zero budget to a significant loss. Each year since then we have set a deficit budget, meaning we plan to spend more than we received in income. We did this to pay staff fairly and because inflation has increased expenses in the last few years. We have been able to cover these deficits through the infusion of federal pandemic relief funds. The good news is that since 2020 our Year End Actuals have been better than budgeted and with our 2023-2024 budget, we begin the journey back towards a balanced budget.



This is a complicated way of saying that we have been through challenging times, but things are looking brighter ahead. It is said that tough times make you stronger, and I can feel the strength and commitment of this congregation in everything we do.

The Finance Committee will be watching our income, spending throughout the year, and reporting to the congregation at the February six-month financial review and prior to the next annual meeting. If you have any questions about our financials contact me or a member of the committee.

Karen Witting, Treasurer.

Finance Committee: Susan Flaws, Rog Smith, Jeff Talmadge, Gail Webb, Karen Witting (Chair)



FPBUU Committee Contacts List

(Based on available information as of September 2023)

**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: Jim Lieb
Building a Bigger Table: Co-Chairs Janet Emack, Julia Enroth, Janet Treanor
Building Maintenance Committee: Judy Fenner
Caring Committee: Tavia Ossola & Rev. Kaaren Anderson
Children and Youth Ministries: (CYM): Deb Selkow
COVE (Office Volunteers) Team: Marilyn McDermott
Covenant Groups: Maureen Osborne
Covid-19 Task Force: Susan Smith
Endowment Board: Linda Bailey-Davies, Bob Flanagan
Finance Committee: Karen Witting
Financial Futures Team: Susan Smith
Fundraising Team: Debbi Klein
Landscape Committee: Liz Gordon
Leadership Nominating Committee: Rog Smith
Lifespan Religious Education Ministries: Twinks Hastings (Staff)
Membership Committee: Paula Lieb
Music Ministry: Kaeza Fearn (Staff)
Personnel Committee: Tavia Ossola
Policy Committee: Topper Roth
Prayer Shawl Ministry: Pat Amos
Reparations Task Force: Karen Watson-Etsell
Right Relations Team: TBD
Safe Congregation Committee: Rev. Kaaren Anderson
Social Justice Committee: Katharine Farnham, Sue Trask
Stewardship Committee: Tavia Ossola, Debbi Klein
Thrift Store: Celine Crook (Staff)
UU Connections Committee: Carol Ann Yeaple
UUSC Fair Trade Sales: Mary Wallace
Walking Group: Donna Mercaldi
LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Committee: Linda Bailey-Davies, Joanne Hush
Woman's Circle Alliance: Linda Hladek
Worship Associates: Rev. Kaaren Anderson

Staff Directory

Minister:

Rev. Kaaren Anderson (Ext. 308) revkaaren@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

Dave Caolo, Sexton dave@firstparishbrewster.org

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

Lifespan Religious Education Ministries (includes CYM):

Twinks Hastings, Director (Ext. 312) twinks@firstparishbrewster.org

Music Ministries

Kaeza Fearn, Music Director (Ext. 306) kaeza@firstparishbrewster.org

Rikki Bates, AV Tech Support rikki@firstparishbrewster.org

Deadline Reminders

FPBUU 23-24 Winter Angle

Due November 1st, 2023

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

Need to Contact Us?

First Parish Brewster Unitarian Universalist

1 Harwich Rd (Mailing Address)

Brewster, MA 02631

508-896-5577

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-Noon. Give us a call at 508-896-5577

or email cove@firstparishbrewster.org.

Let us know how we can help!

Website: www.fpbuu.org **Facebook:** facebook.com/fpbuu/