

The Bell-Ringer

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, MA 02331

 MARCH 2014 

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 9th – Our **Annual Youth Service** lead by H.I.P., grades 9 through 12 will explore the topic of “**Time**”. This is a Special Family Sunday. Preschool – Grade 1 will go downstairs after the children’s story. Grade 2 and up remain for the entire service.

March 16th - “**A Future Worthy of Our Past**” As we celebrate our Stewardship Sunday, Catherine will be joined in the pulpit by the first spiritual leader of this gathered community, William Elder Brewster. **Special music will round out this service that is *not to be missed!***

March 23rd - “**Rising Green**” - With the Spring Equinox just passed, we can (hopefully) say good bye to ice and snow for a little while. The daylight has overtaken the nighttime for the next six months. As our days continue to brighten, how can that inform the wanderings of our feet, hearts, and souls?

March 30th - “**Are You Safe At Home?**” Domestic violence strikes without regard to socioeconomic class or religious persuasion and includes physical, emotional and mental abuse. How should we, as Unitarian Universalists, respond to the people in our lives who make us feel unsafe?

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

Building & Grounds 10:00a.m.
R.E. Meeting 7:00p.m.
Communications 7:00-9:00p.m.

THURSDAY MARCH 6

Book Club 9:00a.m.
Alliance 10:00-2:00p.m.
Worship 7:00p.m.

FRIDAY MARCH 7

Committee on Ministry 5:00p.m.
Overnights – serving dinner

SUNDAY MARCH 9

Daylight Saving Time Begins
YOUTH SERVICE SUNDAY

Social Justice 9:00a.m.
Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30a.m.
Worship 10:30a.m.
Worship Associates Train. 11:30-1:00pm
GA Parent Youth Mtg. 12:00p.m.
NO HIP
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30p.m.

MONDAY MARCH 10

Finance Mtg. 7:00p.m.
Welcome Congregation 7:00p.m.
Bible Group 7:00-8:30p.m.
Buddha’s Brain-Pembroke 7:30-9:30pm

TUESDAY MARCH 11

Memoirs 7:15p.m.
Bell Choir 7-8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12

Kindred Spirits 10:00-11:30a.m.

THURSDAY MARCH 13

Book Club 9:00 a.m.
Alliance 10:00-2:00pm.
Govern. Board Agenda 7-8:00 p.m.
Buddha’s Brain-Marshfield 6:00-7:30pm

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

“I’m not sure I’m in favor of repentance. Sinners are the ones who get the work done. A strong sense of personal guilt is what makes people willing to serve on committees.” ----Garrison Keillor

This week our sexton, John Russo discovered some palms fronds left over from last year’s worship on Palm Sunday and he wanted to know if we’ll need them this year (*yes, we do occasionally pass out palms on Palm Sunday at FPC!*) I said, “No, the palms can go.” And then John told me a story about a clergy person he once worked with who decided to burn last year’s palms and make his own ashes for the Ash Wednesday service at his church. Only problem was that the clergyman mixed the palm ashes with some kind of oil which *apparently made the smudge of holy ashes indelible, sort of like a tattoo---*many folks were still sporting the remnants of Ash Wednesday when Lent came around the next year!

In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday begins a period of introspection and renunciation before Easter. Lent is an imitation of the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in prayer and fasting before beginning his public ministry. For those of us who grew up in Christian traditions that encouraged the practice of Lent, we no doubt remember that during Lent we were told to “give something up” in an attempt to repent for our shortcomings.

At FPC, despite our diverse theological perspectives, we all do agree that religion is *not* about feeling guilty. Spiritual practice for us is *life-giving and life-affirming.*

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First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts

P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A)

Email: uuduxbury@verizon.net

Telephone: 781-934-6532

Website: www.duxburyuu.org



A liberal religious community dedicated to nurturing individual spiritual development, promoting understanding and working for social justice.

We welcome people of all races, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

Rev. Catherine Cullen, Minister
Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education
Edwin Swanborn, Music Director
Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Rev. Robert R. Walsh, Minister Emeritus
Jackie Smith-Miller, Director of Religious Education, Emerita
Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator
Alex Pevzner, Jr., Junior Choir Director

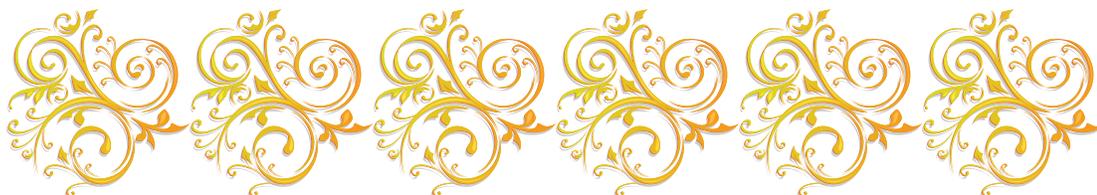
Minister's Message continued from page 1 . . .

But we Unitarian Universalists have also long recognized that we can benefit from a season of *special* attention to our spiritual lives---making time for personal reflection, meditation or prayer, writing, and inspirational reading---intentionally creating time for whatever it is for us that renews our spirits. Decades ago we UU's even launched a tradition of annual **Lenten** manuals. These manuals are now called "Meditation Manuals" and two of these were written by our minister Emeritus Robbie Walsh!

Lent reminds us that we all need a time in our lives for self-reflection, meditation, moral reassessment, and personal renewal--time set apart to help return us to a wholeness and a holiness of the spirit. The writer Kent Nerburn tells us: *Spiritual growth is honed and perfected only through practice. Like an instrument, it must be played. Like a path, it must be walked. Whether through prayer or meditation or worship or good works, you must move yourself in the direction of spiritual betterment.*

May you discover the fruits of this spiritual season of Lent---and if you really would like some ashes,I can always mix some up for you!

Catherine 



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Sun., March 9, 2014 - Youth Service Sunday



“TIME”

Our annual youth service, led by our H.I.P. group, will be held on **Sunday, March 9, 2014**. Our H.I.P. group includes youth in 9th grade to 12th grade. Even though this is the second Sunday of the month, this will be a **SPECIAL FAMILY SUNDAY**. Young people will sit with their families during the first part of the service. Children in preschool through Grade 1 will go downstairs to their classrooms after the beginning of the service. **Young people in Grade 2 and up will remain for the entire service.**

Our Family Tree

Thanks to everyone who came to our Church School Play. Thanks to our church school leaders and families who continue to make church a priority in their busy lives. Most of all, thanks to the children for their enthusiasm and commitment to share their learning's with the larger congregation.

We are truly a Family!

Church School Play DVD's For Sale

DVD's of the Church School Play are for sale for \$10.00 each. If you would like one, please contact Sunsue.

Church School Snacks Needed

Our church school is in need of snacks. If you have a young person registered in our church school we ask you bring snacks to share. They can be dropped off in the supply closet. Remember, no food with nuts.

Adult Religious Education

If you have any questions, please call Sunsue Fleming (781) 934-6532, ext 4. Sign-up sheets are posted outside the church office.

BUDDHA'S BRAIN: THE MIRACLE OF MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

Neuroscience tells us that the ancient spiritual practice of mindfulness and meditation leads to an increased sense of well-being, greater stress resilience and deeper empathy in both professional and personal relationships. Even if you've never meditated before, you'll be amazed at how simple and effective it is! Leader: Catherine Cullen, founder of the Joyful Heart Sangha in Duxbury and an ordained member of internationally known Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh's Order of Interbeing. If you missed this class last fall or simply want a refresher, sign up now!

March 3rd & 10th from 7:30-9:30pm at Pembroke Library & March 13th & 20th from 6:00-7:30pm at Ventress Memorial Library in Marshfield. Contact First Parish Church Duxbury to register (uuduxbury@verizon.net or 781-934-6532).

"Nourishing The Sacred Masculine" **Intern Minister Tom Bozeman**

We're gathering a group of Unitarian Universalist men together to explore being in deeper brotherhood with one another. We'll be meeting **every other Wednesday evening, starting March 5th**. This will not be a drop-in group – a regular commitment is involved. I hope to see you there! If you have any questions, you may call Tom Bozeman.

MEMOIRS

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 11th, 2014** – Due to absences, we will have a make-up Memoirs meeting. We will have two topics, come and share your "Pet Peeves" or "Doors" or both.

This informal group meets monthly to provide support for people interested in writing their memoirs. It is great keepsake to pass on to your children. If you are interested, but have never participated, feel free to come and just listen. Hope you can join us! **Leader: Jackie Smith-Miller.**

CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

This five week course for women is an exploration of women's religious history and its meaning for our lives. It focuses on significant religious issues of feminism such as domination and subordination, suppression of the female presence in Judaism and Christianity, and access to power. It provides a vehicle to move toward effecting change where it is felt desirable. Consistent attendance is important.

There is a minimum of 10 participants.

FIVE FRIDAYS, April 11th, 18th, 25th, May 2nd, & 9th from 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Leaders: Sunsue Fleming & Jackie Smith-Miller.



March Birthdays **Happy Birthday to All!**

Nicholas Clifford Lilli Jarausch
Zachary Hamilton Tristan Mackechnie
Mikayla Zukowski



Ringing Out Justice!

News of social justice activities at First Parish Church



Box Project

The **Box Project** has three months to go this year, **March 17, April 21 and May 19** and the due dates. The shed has been our drop off point this year and seems to be working well. Please remember that we need lots of space for all the donations. This means we can't store Fair items here yet, sorry.



Head Start Children Need Spring and Summer Clothes!

As you are sorting your children's/grandchildren's spring and summer clothes, please consider donating the items that no longer fit to the Box Project for area Head Start children. We need shorts and t-shirts and sundresses and bathing suits. Pjs too! Because these are gifts, please make sure they are in gift condition. No stains or heavy wear. They really should be in **NEARLY NEW CONDITION!** Please contact Cindy Ladd Fiorini or Lenore in the office. Thank you. It makes a huge difference to these families.

Overnights of Hospitality - thanks to all who are volunteering for this program. The winter has been long and cold so this program is terribly important.



Special Collection March 23rd

This will support the Future Hope Apprenticeship Program. We have supported this program in the past and believe it is an important way to help a prison ministry program. The Greater Love Tabernacle Church located in the Franklin field neighborhood of Dorchester runs this Prison Prevention Ministry Program which has been operating for 20 years to support members and friends who have been incarcerated.

Future Hope Apprentice Program was established in order to provide re-entry assistance for ex-offenders on a permanent basis. Much of their work involves assistance for parolees with job training and apprenticeships. Their website states: "This is a project that is both inspired and run by the community to be served."

We appreciated your support.

Changes at Father Bill's/Community Table = Changes for Our FPC Volunteers

The fourth Saturday of each month, September through May, First Parish Church Duxbury, provides casseroles, desserts, salads and volunteers to serve the guests at Father Bill's/Community Table in Brockton. At the Community Table, we/FPC have been volunteering alongside staff from Work Express. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, Work Express no longer is employed at Father Bill's/Community Table. Our role as volunteers has expanded. The scope of work is far more laborious and time consuming. We feel we need a minimum of 6 adults from FPC to operate/volunteer efficiently. This could be a great opportunity for a Small Group Ministry team to volunteer.

Saturday, March 22nd

Saturday, April 26th

Saturday, May 24th

It takes a village at Father Bill's/Community Table – now more than ever! Please email Andrea Brandeis, inbox on Facebook or stop by the Social Justice table and see Callie Brandeis, Youth Coordinator of the Community Table and Social Justice Committee Member to sign up to be a volunteer. Thank you.

UUSC Addresses Emotional Trauma in Typhoon Torn Philippines

100 days ago super Typhoon Haiyan tore across central Philippines killing more than 6,000 people and affecting close to 14 million people. With almost \$1 million donated so far by UUs, UUSC staff have visited devastated Cebu City, hired a local program coordinator, and established relationships with several organizations including two UU churches. After the trauma of a disaster like this, people can suffer PTSD and are unable to function, to begin picking up the pieces of their lives. Work has begun by longtime UUSC partner, Trauma Resource Institute (TRI), to ensure that grassroots partners have essential skills to help people recover from the disaster. TRI is training Filipino trainers to teach people a set of body-based skills that help heal trauma. Participants from frontline aid, government, and non-profit organizations include those workers helping a range of marginalized people. They learn resiliency skills and acquire tools to train others. UUSC is working with researchers from Loma Linda University in California to assess the impact of TRI project. Additional UUSC/Partner projects will support sustainable agriculture and other livelihoods for Cebu City survivors. To learn more and to donate to this Humanitarian Disaster, visit UUSC.org/location/philippines.

UU Mass Action Mission: Deeper Democracy and Hope, Less Injustice in MA

UU Mass Action's mission is "Being grounded in democracy and powered by hope, to mobilize Unitarian Universalists to overcome injustice." This young statewide advocacy organization is one of 18 state UU statewide groups nationally. One major issue that UU Mass Action focuses on is ending homelessness, hunger and poverty. Legislation, like the Minimum Wage bill now before the MA Statehouse and US Congress, would positively impact the people served by three FPC Social Justice Committee programs: Box Project, Father Bill's Table, and our Evenings of Hospitality at the Plymouth Coalition shelter. Other key UU Mass Action issues are Prison Reform, including Gun Violence Prevention, and Immigration Reform (the Trust Act). Climate Change and alternative energy

development are also areas of great interest to UUs. Now is an important time to let your local, state and national legislators know your opinions about these and other issues important to you and your family. Please sign up to receive Action Alerts or to donate to our statewide advocacy network at uumassaction.org. Email Nancy about issues important to you. Let's lift up our UU voices!

Rev. Bill Schulz to honor late Rev. Jack Mendelsohn's Legacy at UU Urban Ministry

UUSC President and former President of UUA **Rev. Dr. Bill Schulz** will be the keynote speaker at a special event honoring and celebrating the life and social justice legacy of **Rev Jack Mendelsohn** on Sunday April 13 at 4:00 pm at UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. As a UU minister, scholar and prophetic voice for liberal religion, Mendelsohn challenged UUs to put our commitment to fairness and justice into action, leading by his own example. The gathering will include choir music, selected readings of Jack's, and a reception. All are invited! If you'd like a ride to 10 Putnam St in Roxbury, please contact Nancy Nowak.

FREE Screenings at the Beal House, 222 Main Street, Kingston, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for Tea & Talk following each film.

For more information call Charlotte Simpson at 781 293-3341.



Girl Rising Saturday, March 8th International Women's Day

Nine unforgettable girls – striving beyond circumstance, pushing past limits – spotlighted in a film about the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world. Co-Sponsored by First Parish Religious Education. **Youth and older children welcome.**



Benda Bilili Friday, March 14th

Benda Bilili! follows an unlikely group of Congolese street musicians from the seedy sidewalks of Kinshasa to the hype clubs of Copenhagen. Their odyssey overthrows clichés regarding handicaps and misery and dares us to question our own limits...

Continued Calendar:**SUNDAY MARCH 16
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Coming of Age Ritual 6:00-7:30p.m.
HIP 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

MONDAY MARCH 17

Welcoming Congregation 7:30 p.m.
Bible Group 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY MARCH 18

Bell Choir 7-8:30p.m.
Intern Committee 7-8:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19

Membership Committee 7:30p.m.

THURSDAY MARCH 20

Book Club 9:00 a.m.
Historical Committee 9:30p.m.
Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.
Govern. Board Meeting 7:00-9:00p.m.
Buddha's Brain-Marshfield 6-7:30p.m.

SATURDAY MARCH 22

Community Table 9-1:00p.m.

SUNDAY MARCH 23

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Denom. Affairs Comm. 12:00 noon
HIP 6:00-7:30p.m.
Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

MONDAY MARCH 24

Building Use Mtg. 11:00a.m.
Bible Group 7:00p.m.
Pathways to UU 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY MARCH 25

Bell Choir 7:00-8:30p.m.

THURSDAY MARCH 27

Book Club 9:00 a.m.
Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.

SATURDAY MARCH 29

HIP Trip to Heifer Farm

SUNDAY MARCH 30

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
NO HIP

Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

MONDAY MARCH 31

DRE Relations 7:00 p.m.
Bible Group 7:00 p.m.

CARING CONNECTION:

There are many caring members of our church community who are willing to lend a hand to those having a difficult time! The Caring Connection can coordinate meals, transportation, babysitting or visits to shut-ins. For the month of **MARCH & APRIL**, please call or email **Gina Angell**.

**Minister's Office Hours:**

Catherine's regular office hours are **Mon., Wed., and Thur.** from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Tuesdays are her days off and Friday's are her sermon writing days. If you need to schedule an appointment during office hours or any time after office hours, please feel free to contact Catherine at TheRevCatherine@aol.com, at her cell number, or by leaving a message at the church.

Church Office Hours

The FPC church office is open **Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** Our email address is uuduxbury@verizon.net. If you need anything, please call Lenore and I will be happy to help you.

People News

JEAN WHALEN continues to recover. She is staying with her daughter in Topsfield. She would love to hear from everyone.

Our condolences go out to **ED & NANCY SWANBORN** as we learn of the passing of Ed's mother, **JEAN SWANBORN**, on Saturday, February 22nd.

Our condolences go out to **DOROTHY & TONY PILLA** and their daughter, **RACHEL** on the death of her beloved husband, **KEVIN** after a brief but brave fight with colon cancer.

We send **JENNIFER LAPOINTE** our condolences for the passing of her father, **JEFFREY LAPOINTE** on Feb. 15th.

Our condolences also go out to **SARIE BOOY** on the passing of her mother, **DOROTHEA BESTER BOOY**. As you might remember, Dorothea turned 100 years old last September 26th.

ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAYS - Family/Child Sunday (1st Sun. each month)
 Joys & Concerns (2nd Sun. each month)
 Announcement Sunday (1st & 3rd Sun. each month)
 Silent Joys & Concerns (4th Sun. each month)
 Music Committee (1st Sun. each month) 12 p.m.
 Social Justice 9 a.m. (2nd Sun. each month)
 Welcoming Congregation 9:30 a.m. (3rd Sun. each month)
 Denominational Affairs 12:00 (3rd Sun.)
 Buddhist Meditation 6-7:30p.m. (weekly)

MONDAYS - Build. Use 11 a.m. (4th Mon. each month)
 Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2nd Mon. each month)

TUESDAYS - Hand Bells 7 p.m.
 Memoirs 7:00p.m. (2nd Tues. each month)

WEDNESDAYS - RE Committee 7 p.m. (1st Wed. of each month)
 Staff meeting 11:30 a.m. (weekly)
 Buildings & Grounds 9-11 a.m. (1st Wed. each month)
 "Kindred Spirits" 10-11:30 p.m. (2nd Wed. each month)
 Membership 7:30 p.m. (3rd Wed. each month)

THURSDAYS - Book Group 9 a.m.
 Sewing Group 10 a.m.
 Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. (1st Thurs. each month)
 Agenda Setting 7-8 p.m. (2nd Thurs. each month)
 Governing Board 7 p.m. (3rd Thurs. each month)
 Historical Committee 9:30a.m. (3rd Thurs. of each month)

FRIDAYS - Committee On Ministry 5 p.m. (1st Fri. each month)

SATURDAYS - Brockton Soup Kitchen 9:15 a.m. (4th Sat. each month)



DOROTHEA BESTER BOOY

Dorothea Bester Booy's Memorial Service will be on **March 29th** at 1:00pm at First Parish, all are welcome. There will be a social gathering afterward in the Assembly Hall.

Interning Grace
"Visualizing The Child"
 by Intern Minister Tom Bozeman

At the end of the sermon that I preached on February 23, following the suggestion of former civil rights leader John Lewis, I urged everyone to practice visualizing another person as the small child that they may have once been – and to notice what that was like. How does it change your experience of them? How does it change your experience of yourself? How do you find yourself wanting to address them? Does it feel like kindness comes more naturally? Or maybe understanding or patience? Does it make it easier to be forgiving?

If you haven't yet tried it, I urge you to do so with the next person that you encounter – whether forgiveness feels at all applicable with that person. Just notice what that's like, what it feels like inside of yourself, to regard someone that way. What information is available? Do you feel more relaxed? If so, what was having you not be relaxed before? Do you feel more tense? If so, what might you be taking on that would instigate that response in you?

There is so much richness available in these little practices. I hope to hear about how it goes for you, and about what you learn from the experience.



Next Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Monday, April 7th , 2014 9:00 a.m.



THINKING ABOUT GOING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PROVIDENCE IN JUNE???

- (1) Several FPC'ers have expressed interest in attending GA. If you interested in sharing a room or carpooling, please let Lenore know and she will put the groups in touch!
- (2) If you are planning to attend GA and want to be one of FPC's "official" delegates (which means you can vote on denominational business matters at Plenary sessions), please contact Governing Board President, Karl Schweitzer by **March 18th**. Our Governing Board will be electing GA delegates soon!! (If you would like to know more about what being a delegate means, contact Catherine)
- (3) If you are planning on attending GA and would like to be considered for a financial grant to help offset your expenses, please contact Karl by **March 18th**. The Governing board will be deciding on grant applications soon.

Denominational Affairs Committee

General Assembly in Providence!

It may be a long time before the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly returns to our back yard, so we should take full advantage of this opportunity.

1. Hop on the bus! First Parish will provide free bus transportation for a day trip to attend the Sunday Worship Service on June 29th. Please sign up with Lenore in the First Parish Office if you plan to join us.
2. **Save the Date!** Denominational Affairs will sponsor a pot luck supper gathering **Friday, May 2nd** to discuss the ballot issues under consideration at this GA.

Social Justice Cell Tower Grants

Completed applications for the spring grants are due on March 15. Applications can be found on-line or in the office. Please return to Cindy Ladd Fiorini.

Worship Associate Training March 9th

Catherine and the Worship Committee are pleased to announce that there will be a brief training program on March 9, 2014 after church for persons who are interested in serving as Worship Associates for the church. Worship Associates generally assist Catherine, our Intern Minister, Visiting Ministers or lay leaders in the pulpit, performing a variety of roles, depending upon the service, including Call to Worship, Welcome, Readings, assisting with Joys and Concerns, etc. If you are interested in attending this orientation/training program, which will run from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on March 9, or if you have any questions about the program, please contact Michael Gardner, Chair of the Worship Committee so we can get an accurate count of participants. Current Worship Associates are encouraged to attend if possible, as a refresher. Thank you so much for considering this exciting opportunity.



Communications Corner

The Communications Committee is charged with keeping church members informed about church events and programs in a timely manner. To do this, we use various tools: website, monthly newsletter (the Bell-Ringer), weekly emails (UUNews), FaceBook, announcements in the Order of Service, posters and tables at coffee hour, and bulletin boards. We want to find out from you which of these methods work well, or not. Would you please 1-2 minutes to answer these six questions to help us better communicate about our church? Just [click here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JF5DBY7) or copy and paste: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JF5DBY7> Thank you!

Interested in Joining a Small Group??

Small Groups are expanding! Would you like to join a once a month group of 8 – 10 people to come together to share thoughts on a variety of interesting topics? We are looking to start a WEDNESDAY evening Small Group that would meet just once monthly and we want your participation!!! We are also looking for a few more women to join an existing women's group on Thursday night that meets twice a month. Please contact Cindy Ladd Fiorini, Catherine Cullen, Mary Langner or David Murphy for more information or if you have questions. We will also have a table available after church Sunday March 2 and March 9 if you would like to speak to a member of the Small Group Steering Committee in person.



News from the Membership Committee

Pathways to UU - Monday, March 24 from 7:00-9:00pm. As a follow up to the "Introduction to UU" in December, the Membership Committee will now host **Pathways to UU**. Desserts will be served! This program is for new members and people who are drawn to our principles and purposes and are possibly considering membership. The program is led by Rev. Catherine Cullen and is designed to

offer information and lend support during your exploration of membership. You will discover options for finding community, spiritual growth and service within our Church. We hope you will be able to join us. If you missed the Introduction to UU, no problem we will get you up to speed! And remember if you need a babysitter at home, babysitting expenses will be reimbursed by the church for any church related events! Please call Caroline Mitchell or send an e-mail to uuduxburymembership@gmail.com to reserve a place.

Ready to sign the book?- If you have not signed the Membership book yet but feel you are ready to do so, please see one of the Membership Committee members or approach Rev. Catherine Cullen directly. Remember, the benefits of membership gives you not only a sense of belonging, but also eligibility to vote at congregational meetings, you will receive the UU World magazine, you will be able to hold certain key lay leadership positions and you will receive reduced fees for rites of passage (weddings, funerals) or rental of church space. *Caroline Mitchell, Chair, Tracy Wagner, Vice Chair, Christina Farup, Gary Stanton, Liz Connors, Gail Murphy, Kathleen Teehan*



Forming a PFLAG Chapter on the South Shore

The Welcoming Congregation committee at First Parish is exploring the possibility of hosting a PFLAG chapter. (PFLAG stands for “Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People.”) The nearest PFLAG chapters south of Boston are in Brewster and Easton. We think it would be great to have one on the South Shore and are working to make it happen. A recent event on sexuality and gender at First Parish drew an enthusiastic crowd to hear Pam Garramone, the Executive Program Director of Greater Boston PFLAG, and three BGLT (bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender) youth talk about their lives. Other events will be upcoming. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, please contact Jim Hamilton (chair of the Welcoming Congregation committee).



Father's Bill's

Good Day, Friends! Many thanks for the generous donations of hats, gloves, mittens and other winterwear that helped 23 people during last month's annual statewide homeless count in Brockton. At 9:00pm, myself and the outreach group from Father Bill's took to the streets assisting anyone in need. Our first stop was a site known as Tent City along the railroad tracks where a number of homeless individuals camped out. We passed out blankets, bag lunches and other donations to them. It was like Christmas again in January. Back to our van, we continued on our journey. Our next stop was a parking lot near 2 abandoned factories where we walked between each building 6-8 feet separating each building with snow and ice flooring and railroad tracks in sight. Two couples, cold, wet and hungry were there for assistance. The women were grateful for the scarves and food. On the south side of town we found a pitched homemade tent, however the occupant did not want help. We left a bag lunch and a bag with essentials for him anyway. At 11:30, we went back to Father Bill's to share data collected.

The kitchen tables and chairs were moved to the side to make room for an overflow of people sleeping on mats.

On my way home to Duxbury, there were so many street lessons sifting through my head. After another firsthand experience dealing with those in need of housing, mental health assistance and guidance, I count my lucky stars, thankful to have a roof over my head, heat and a good supply of everyday food. Nothing is taken for granted!! When I pulled into my driveway at 1:00am it was 9 degrees. Once again, many thanks to our awesome caring congregation!!

Peace, Bob Hughes

UU-United Nation Office hosts the 2014 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar

The Intergenerational Spring Seminar, **Sacred Roots: Indigenous Rights, Resistance, and Reclamation**, will take place at the United Nations in New York City from April 3rd-5th. The seminar is planned in partnership with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The panel topics will address: Indigenous Rights 101, UNDRIP, Indigenous Spirituality, Traditional Lands and Governmental Borders and Environmental Justice. UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales will be a keynote speaker.

Each year youth and adults from around the United States and Canada gather in New York City for this exciting and educational program to gain a deep understanding on topics of global concern, listen to insightful speakers from around the world, connect with others, and have fun. Approximately seventy-five youth and youth advisors stay at one of our Manhattan-based Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations. Not only do youth attend the conference, but many also hold important leadership roles in its planning and execution.

Scholarships, financial and housing assistance are available. Early bird registration rates end on March 7th! To learn more visit UU-UNO.org. Questions: please contact Nancy Nowak.



A Special Collection - Toilet Paper Rolls!

Toilet paper rolls are needed for a project coming in April. (It is a surprise.) There will be a bag on the bench in the hall to hold your donations.



Service Auction Information

Anyone who donated to the Service Auction may contact Sharon Nabreski to find out who bought your item.



St. Paddy's Party Dinner & Fundraiser

FPC member Pam Smith is running her 11th Boston Marathon to benefit the American Liver Foundation. Put on your green and join her at a St. Paddy's Party dinner fundraiser Thursday, March 13, 6-8pm at Haddads. There will be traditional Irish music, step dancing and Shepherd's Pie, \$35 p/p donation. Call Pam for tickets or details.

Project 351's "Spring Greening" – Chris Cantwell

"FPC's own Chris Cantwell was selected to represent the town of Marshfield in Governor Patrick's [Project 351](#). Chris participated in a day of service with the Governor to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January, and is participating in initiative. This year, "Spring Greening" is a clothing and footwear drive for elementary school age children helped by Cradles to Crayons. As you clear away winter's clutter and get ready for spring cleaning, put aside any gently used children's clothing and shoes. Collection details to follow, stay tuned!"



Changing Our Clocks

Remember everyone to change your clocks **Saturday night, March 8th** before you go to bed! Our clocks will move an hour ahead (or spring forward) to begin daylight savings time. And yes, technically called daylight saving time, this means we'll start noticing more daylight as we leave work at the end of our day.