

The Bell-Ringer

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

 **DECEMBER 2014** 

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Dec. 7th: "Learning to Walk in the Dark"** As we approach the darkest day of the year, we wonder, how can we make it through the dark times of our lives? **(FAMILY SUNDAY & MITTEN TREE SUNDAY, NEW TO UU)**
- Dec. 14th: "Who Do You Say I Am: What Jesus Means To Me?"** Tom & Catherine will offer their answers to this question!
- Dec. 21st: "The Holiday Pageant"** - 10:30 a.m. **Our Morning Worship**: The children of the Church School will present the story of the birth of Jesus. There will also be songs of Hanukkah, a celebration of Santa Lucia, music by the Bell Choir and the Junior Choir, and carols for all to sing.
- Dec. 24th "Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. – Always one of the best services of the year!** Traditional service of lessons and carols. Our musical prelude will begin at 5 p.m. Bring your children, neighbors, out-of-town guests, and let's all share the joy of the holiday season!
- Dec. 28th: "Sharing Service"** - In the Parlor with Worship Leader, Michael Gardner. Bring a song, a story, a poem, an idea, or an emotion. Childcare available.

COMING EVENTS

MONDAY DECEMBER 1

Cell Tower Task Force 3:00pm
Bible Group 7:00pm

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2

Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3

Building & Grounds 9:00am
Growth Team 4:00pm
RE Meeting 7:00pm

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4

Book Club 9:00am
Alliance Sewing Grp. 10:00-2:00pm
SGM Steering 4:00pm
Worship 7:00pm

Building Use 6:00pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

SETUP DECEMBERFEST ALL DAY
Committee on Ministry 5:00pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

DECEMBERFEST 9:00AM – 2:00PM

DIC-St. Paul's of the Nazarene 9:00am
SGM 6:00pm

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

MITTEN TREE

Angel Rehearsal 8:30am
Entire Cast 9:0am
Worship 10:30am
New to UU 12:00 noon
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30pm
HIP 6:00-7:30pm

MONDAY DECEMBER 8

Intern Meeting 7:00-8:30pm
UU Urban Ministry 2:00pm
Welcome Congregation 7:00pm
Bible Group 7:00-8:30pm

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9

IT Team 7:00pm

*Warmest Holiday Greetings to All from the Staff at
First Parish Church!*



Rev. Catherine Cullen

Tom Bozeman

Sunsue Fleming

Paul Frongillo

Lenore O'Malley

Dawn MacKechnie

Alex Penzner

John Russo

Elaine Stephansky

Edwin Swanborn

*May we all take the time this holiday season to remember the gifts
we receive from each other. Best wishes for a peaceful holiday and a
blessed New Year!*

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Sun., Dec. 14th, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Religious Education Committee Invites Everyone to Our Annual All-Church Winter Holiday Workshop

This special **ALL-CHURCH CELEBRATION** begins at **11:30 a.m.** (after church school) in the Harvey Assembly Hall. Everyone is invited to join in the fun of Holiday crafts and activities from **11:30 to 1 p.m.** Delicious soup will be served for lunch. **DESSERT IS UP TO YOU!** Please bring a plate of cookies to share. Join in the joy of celebrating as a church family. Please bring an unbreakable ornament for our Church Family Christmas Tree (write your name and 2014 on the ornament) and your wonderful Holiday Spirit!

Holiday Pageant – December 21st, 2014



This year our annual Holiday Pageant will be held on **Sun., Dec. 21st at 10:30 a.m.** Many of our young people look forward to being in the Pageant. We invite you all to think about your child's participation and to discuss it with them. Usually, we are able to accommodate all those who are interested. The following information may be helpful in deciding if participation will be possible for your child this year.

Pageant Rehearsal Date Schedule:

Please note all rehearsals are on Sundays

<u>Dec. 7th</u>	9 a.m. rehearsal in the Hall 2 nd -6 th grade fitted for costumes
<u>Dec. 14th</u>	9a.m. dress rehearsal in sanctuary
<u>Dec. 21st</u>	8:30 a.m. rehearsal in Sanctuary Followed by 10:30 a.m.

Please note, children who choose to be in the choir and children who choose to be angels will have additional rehearsals.

Angels – will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 7th and Dec. 14th & 21st.

Santa Lucia dancers will have an extra rehearsal after church on Dec. 7th.

Young people (except Mary and Joseph) may sing with the Junior Choir and be in the Pageant if they can make rehearsal schedules.

December 7th, 2014 - Mitten Tree Reminder



During Family Sunday on **Sun., Dec. 7th**, we will be sharing in our annual Mitten Tree. Each of us is invited to bring in a pair of new or nearly new mittens, gloves, etc. to hang on our tree. Our gifts of warmth will be donated to the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless. Remember - homeless people come in all sizes.

Friday, December 19th, 7:30 – 9:00 pm Winter Solstice Ritual for Women

Please join us in the Parlor. All Women are welcome and please bring along some Goddess food to Share after the ritual.

Adult Religious Education

We are excited to offer the following courses. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside the church office. If you have any questions, please call Sunsue Fleming (781) 934-6532, ext 3. We hope to see you there!

MEMOIRS: WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY

The next meeting of the Memoirs group will be on **Tuesday, December 9th at 7:15 p.m.** in the Marion Fletcher Room. Our topic will be “Christmas Memories”. Hope you’ll join us – all are welcome!

Leader: Jackie Smith-Miller.

UU CAMPS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS - Within a few hours of First Parish there are several wonderful UU Camps and Conference Centers. Come learn about Star Island, Ferry Beach, Rowe Conference Center, and Cedar Hill. **Leader: Sunsue Fleming, Mon., Jan. 26th, 7 p.m.**

SAVE THE DATE:

Ancestor Lunch

Sunday, January 11th, 2014 12:00noon – 1:00 p.m.

Our Play unit this year is centered on Stories. Everyone in the church is invited to an ancestor lunch. Bring a dish to share for our potluck ancestor lunch. It is a time to remember and celebrate those who came before. Bring a dish that represents either your ancestral heritage or a relative who has passed and a short story or explanation to share. This is both a fun and meaningful event, giving us the space to remember our loved ones in community and in celebration.

BINGO NIGHT

Sunday – January 25th, 2014, 5 - 7:30 p.m.

COME ONE! COME ALL!

On **Sun., Jan. 25, 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**, your favorite youth group, H.I.P., will be sponsoring a fun-filled and spectacular night of Bingo and food! Enjoy a spaghetti dinner and some top-rate **BINGO** action while supporting the H.I.P. Youth Group! The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. (Family max. = \$25). Be advised that prizes will not be cash. Bring the family and be prepared for an evening of food, **BINGO** and entertainment! Tickets will be on sale during Coffee Hour in January.

H.I.P. Youth Group

Bingo Prizes Needed

Bingo prizes are needed. **NEW** or **NEARLY NEW** items, appropriate for all ages, are needed for this popular event. Questions, please call Sunsue.

Sunsue's Retirement

The DRE committee is available as a resource if anyone has questions about Sunsue's retirement at the end of this school year. Our contact information is: Kathleen Teehan, Greg Welsh and Christine Bulman.





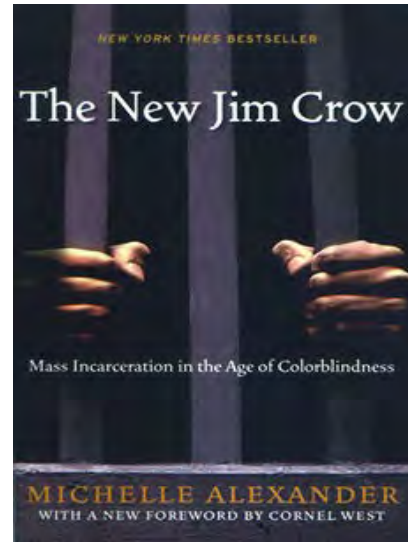
Ringling Out Justice!

News of social justice activities at First Parish Church



The New Jim Crow Discussion Group, January 13th, 7:00pm

2014 -2015
Common Read
 Join Social Justice
 Committee in the discussion
 of this important book.
Tuesday
Jan 13, 2015
 As Unitarian Universalists,
 we have the religious
 grounding, the resources, and
 the opportunity to make a
 difference in partnership with
 those who are most affected
 by institutionalized racism
 and “the new Jim Crow.”



What critics have been saying about this book:

“The New Jim Crow” arrives at a receptive moment, when declining crime rates and exploding prison budgets have made conservatives and liberals alike more ready to question the wisdom of keeping nearly 1 in 100 Americans behind bars.

- *Jennifer Schuessler, New York Times*

Devastating. . . . Alexander does a fine job of truth-telling, pointing a finger where it rightly should be pointed: at all of us, liberal and conservative, white and black.

- *Forbes*

Alexander is absolutely right to fight for what she describes as a “much-needed conversation” about the wide-ranging social costs and divisive racial impact of our criminal-justice policies.

-*Newsweek*

Overnights of Hospitality



Help support **Overnights of Hospitality**, an emergency winter sheltering program for approximately 20 homeless men in Plymouth. Two ways you might help: December 9th, be one of a small team to cook and serve an evening meal. Contact Mary Flanagan. Donate some new men’s thermal underwear, tops and bottoms. All sizes welcome. Deliver to the Social Justice table after worship any time on or before December 7th. Or deliver to the church office with a note that it is for Overnights of Hospitality. Thanks!



Box Project for December

The Box Project for December is due by December 16th. Also don't forget to pick up a gift tag with a family members wish at Decemberfest on the 6th.

Community Table

The Community Table will be the 27th. Pick up a casserole pan and recipe at the Social Justice Table after church.

HIKING

Come take a hike with us and nurture your relationship with nature! The Social Justice Committee is planning more monthly walks with a focus on nature. (Lorraine Rubinacci, who attended the November Hike and taught us so much about nature, has generously offered her services for December and January.) 1. December 7, 2014. Bay Farm Walk: Easy to Moderate. 12:15-1:15 p.m. This will be accessible for those using canes or hiking sticks. Depending on group and trail conditions, we may divide into a Very Easy Group and a Moderate Group. Meet behind FPC at 12:00 p.m. to caravan or carpool,. (Wind Chill below 20 degrees or rain will postpone until December 14.) 2. January 11, 2015. Duxbury Beach Snowy Owl Hike: Moderate to More Difficult. We'll walk a little faster watching for Snowy Owls and other birds. Meet at Duxbury Beach at 12:15. Caravan or carpool from behind FPC at 12:00. Wind Chill below 20 or rain will postpone until January 18. If you have questions see Sally Delisa at Coffee Hour.

POTLUCK DISCUSSION

Our Intern Minister Tom Bozeman and Nancy Landgren invite you to a Potluck Discussion Friday January 30th at 6PM. We will share dinner and then have a discussion on the "militarization of the police", gun violence in our country today with highlights from a historical overview of country's history, and the NRA and the last election. Please join us. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Landgren or Tom Bozeman.



Continued Calendar from Page 1:

Memoirs 7:15pm
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10
Kindred Spirits 10:00-11:30am
Stewardship 7:00pm
THURSDAY DECEMBER 11
Book Club 9:00am
Alliance Sewing Grp. 10:00-2:00pm
Agenda Meeting 7:00pm
Communications Meeting 7:00pm
Men's Group 7:00pm
FRIDAY DECEMBER 12
Polly Lanman's Holiday Party 7:00pm
SATURDAY DECEMBER 13
Workshop Setup 10:00-12:00noon
SUNDAY DECEMBER 14
HOLIDAY WORKSHOP
Angel Rehearsal 8:30am
Entire Cast 9:00am
Worship 10:30am
HIP 6:00-7:30pm
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30pm
MONDAY DECEMBER 15
Building Use 10:00am
Bible Group 7:00-8:30pm.
TUESDAY DECEMBER 16
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm
THURSDAY DECEMBER 18
Book Club 9:00am
Historical Committee 9:30am
Alliance Sewing Grp. 10:00-2:00pm
Governing Board Mtg. 7:00pm
FRIDAY DECEMBER 19
Women's Solstice 7:30pm
SUNDAY DECEMBER 21
PAGEANT
Angel Rehearsal 8:30am
Entire Cast 9:00am
Membership 9:00am
Worship 10:30am
NO HIP
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30pm
MONDAY DECEMBER 22
PFLAG 7:30pm
Bible Group 7:00-8:30pm
TUESDAY DECEMBER 23
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE!
OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12:00 NOON
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5:30PM
THURSDAY DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY!
OFFICE CLOSED
FRIDAY DECEMBER 26
OFFICE CLOSED
SATURDAY DECEMBER 27
Community Table 9:00am
SUNDAY DECEMBER 28
Worship 10:30am
NO HIP
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30pm
MONDAY DECEMBER 29
Bell Ringer Deadline!
Bible Group 7:00-8:30pm
TUESDAY DECEMBER 30
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30pm
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Office Closing 12:00 noon

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 **DECEMBER**, the contact is Kathy Bray.



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. She may be contacted by cell at (781) 635-5906. 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.

Start Your New Year Off With Spiritual Direction Opportunities at First Parish Church!

The still, small voice is with you whether you are racing through your busy days or sitting in meditative silence or contemplative prayer. Spiritual direction is for anyone who is searching for deeper spiritual insights and for spiritual growth in the events of our hectic daily lives. You can use your time in spiritual direction to slow down, to learn how to listen, to explore life's deeper issues and to make progress toward achieving greater consistency between your deeply held values and your actions. This fall Catherine is offering Individual Spiritual Direction (participants meet with Catherine once a month for an hour or so). Contact Catherine via email at TheRevCatherine@aol.com or call her here at the church (781)934-6532 ext 3, to learn more about this unique ancient spiritual practice. May this be the year you explore more deeply the spiritual meaning of your life!

Church Office Hours

The FPC church office is open **Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** Please call Lenore, **781-934-6532** or email at uuduxbury@verizon.net if you need anything.



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)
 Membership 9:00am (3rd Sun. each month)
 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 5-6:30p.m. (weekly)

MONDAYS - Building Use 10:30 a.m. (4th Mon. each month)
 Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2nd Mon. each month)
 Bible Group every Monday 7:00pm

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)

THURSDAYS - Book Group 9 a.m.
 Sewing Group 10 a.m.
 Worship Committee/Music 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)
 Capital Projects 7 p.m.
 Historical Committee 9:30a.m. (3rd Thurs. of each month)
 Communications (2nd Thurs. 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)



Holiday Fair

December 6th 9am-2pm



Holiday Greens

Vintage Finds

Gourmet Gifts

Silent Auction

Handcrafted Items

Luncheon at Ruby's Cafe

First Parish Church ~ 842 Tremont St. Duxbury Rt 3A

DECEMBERFEST

Decemberfest will be Saturday the 6th from 9 to 2. We hope you will help us make this a successful fundraiser by donating greens, or an item for the silent auction (valued at \$20 or more), or something for the gourmet table, or for Mrs. Kringle's table. We can also use help with set up on Friday and clean up on Saturday. But more than this, come and shop, have lunch at Ruby's Cafe. Pick up a gift tag with a child's wish as part of the Box Project. Return the wrapped gift by November 16th. Bring your family!



Next Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Monday, December 29th, 2014

Interning Grace
by Intern Minister Tom Bozeman

“Injustice Anywhere Is A Threat To Justice Everywhere”

As I write this, there is still no word on the decision of the grand jury in Ferguson, MO on whether or not to indict police officer Darren Wilson – a white police officer who shot a Black teenager to death, sparking protests and civil unrest in August. If the grand jury chooses not to indict Wilson, there are fears of something akin to the Holy Week Uprising in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Los Angeles Uprising in the wake of the acquittal of the police charged with beating Rodney King.

Other connections to history abound, such as the Boston Police Commissioner's November 20 “Message To Boston's College And University Students,” which warned of “outside agitators” - a term often used in the South to delegitimize the Civil Rights Movement. In response, King himself declared, “Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial 'outside agitator' idea,” in his “Letter From A Birmingham Jail.”

May we not be distracted by such coded language and instead remember that, as King also pointed out in that very same letter, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

SAVE THE DATES!!
January 2015

Ancestor Lunch, 12:00 noon – January 11th
Jim Crow Discussion, 7:00pm – January 13th
Cedar Hill Committee Chairs Social, 7:00pm – January 23rd
HIP Bingo – January 25th
Potluck Discussion Group , 5:30pm – January 30th
Alliance Talent Show – January 31st



Christmas Party

Friday Night, December 12th, 7 p.m.
Alliance Christmas Party

Come one – come all! Come to the home of Polly Lanman for our Annual Alliance Christmas Party complete with good food, joyous carol singing and a Yankee Swap. Bring a “funny” gift for the Yankee Swap (no need to spend a lot of money, \$5 max.). Join us for an evening of warm folks, singing Christmas Carols and lots of laughs. Please call Jackie Smith-Miller if you need a ride. Hope to see you there!



Pretty Poinsettias to Purchase



Red and white poinsettias will be for sale! There is a sign-up sheet outside the office. These plants will help decorate our lovely sanctuary during this holiday season. After the Christmas Eve service, members who purchased a plant may take it with them home if they choose. The deadline for ordering flowers will be **Sunday, December 7th**. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board or contact Sheri Wyman if you have any questions.

Thank you and Happy Holidays from the Flower Committee!



Bell Ringing – New Year’s Eve!

Come join us on New Year’s Eve to Ring the Bells! Bring a snack! Come by the church at 11:30pm! Any questions, please call Judi Vose.



Save The Date!

FPC Talent Show – January 31st, 2015!

“FPC’s Got Talent” and we invite you to start thinking about what you will share at our upcoming Intergenerational Talent Show. What will your act be? (Singing, Dancing, Comedy, Magic, Storytelling, Tambourines, Playing a Musical Instrument? Etc.)

More information to follow – but in the meantime please **Save The Date – January 31st** – and start putting your act together. Contact Jackie Smith-Miller with details of your act or if you have questions. We urge you all to plan to participate and attend so that once again we will have a “Really Big Show”!!

Please Join Us for an "Intro to UU" Sunday, Dec. 7th, 12:00 noon

An opportunity to share in a dialog with our Minister, Rev. Catherine Cullen, and to get to know others new to the First Parish community. You will also find out more about Unitarian Universalism and discover options for finding community, spiritual growth and service within First Parish. A light lunch will be provided and childcare is available. There's a sign up sheet in the hallway (at the back entrance) or call Caroline Mitchell.

Social Justice Cell Grants

The Social Justice Cell Grant Committee recently awarded its fall grants for 2014/2015. There will be another awarding of grants in March, 2015 for which applications are due on March 1, 2015.

Heating assistance for the towns of Marshfield and Pembroke \$550

(Duxbury has a source of funding that is sufficient for its needs.)

Haitian Urban Tire Garden Training Center \$1950

This is a program run by the UUSC.

South Shore Resource Center \$950

This organization provides services to women and children who are the victims of abuse.

Educational Funds for the children of our Partner Church minister \$600

There is no high school in the village where the Sandor family lives so the children must live away from home during the week.

Habitat for Humanity \$2000

This is for ongoing local projects.

Mission Trip for the HIP Group \$975

The HIP Group is planning a mission trip to Appalachia this spring. They are raising some of the costs themselves.

Carrie Meier, Carol Nappellio, Marilyn Christmann, Nancy Nowak, Jen Cantwell

The Community Table **Saturday, December 27th**

We will be serving the guests of Father Bill's at the Community Table on Saturday, December 27th. Please stop by the Social Justice table during coffee hour to say hello and sign up to provide a casserole, salad fixings, desserts and/or to volunteer as a server. We are in need of an experienced volunteer to lead on Saturday, December 27th. The Brandeis family will be out of town on Sat, Dec 27th. The experienced volunteer to lead will be responsible for transporting all the food from FPC to Father Bill's, leading the caravan to Father Bill's, bringing the casserole pans back to FPC for re-use and leading the set up, preparing, etc at the Community Table.

If you are able to lead on Saturday, December 27th at Father Bill's, please email me, Callie Brandeis at calbrandeis@gmail.com or stop by the Social Justice table and coffee hour and sign up.

Thank you, Callie Brandeis, Youth Coordinator for the Community Table and Social Justice Committee Member

