



The Bell-Ringer

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



APRIL 2015



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 29: "Celebrating Our Organ," 10:30 am: The Alliance will be joined by our talented Music Director, Ed Swanborn, as we celebrate "Old Lady Simmons," our magnificent and historic organ: its past, present and future!

April 2: Maundy Thursday Communion Service @ 6:30 p.m. In the Chapel. –a UU Communion Service

April 5: Sunrise Service on Duxbury Beach @ 6:10 (sunrise is at 6:20 a.m.) - The hardy among us will gather on the beach to the right of the handicap ramp to share a beautiful sunrise service!

April 5: "Our Annual Intergenerational Easter Service" - Our Annual Intergenerational Easter Service featuring the Egg Tree, and our wonderful choirs. Our younger children (age grade 1 & younger) may go downstairs for an egg hunt.

April 12: "What Unitarian Universalists Value Least": Unitarians from Duxbury, Kingston and Plymouth will gather for a Union Service featuring the well-known Reverend William Schulz (more details inside).

April 19: "Social Justice Sunday" The Social Justice Committee will discuss the 7th Principal of the UU faith, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Members of **Sustainable Duxbury**, a group dedicated to acting on the spirit of this principal will be joining us. The sermon, readings and music will inspire us all as we meditate on our shared gift, our Mother Earth.

April 26: Welcoming Congregation Annual Service with Skylar Kergil: Trans artist, activist, and YouTuber Skylar Kergil will join Catherine in the pulpit for the annual Welcoming Congregation worship service. Skylar's YouTube videos (some of which have been viewed more than a million times) document his female-to-male transition. He will bring a remarkable perspective to this year's Welcoming Congregation worship service.

COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1

Building & Grounds 9:00a.m.

RE Meeting 7:00p.m.

THURSDAY APRIL 2

Book Club 9:00a.m.

Alliance 10:00-2:00p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service 6:30-7:30pm

Worship Committee 7:30-9:00p.m.

FRIDAY APRIL 3

Committee on Ministry 5:00-6:00p.m.

SUNDAY APRIL 5

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 6:20a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 a.m

Jr. & Sr. Choirs 9:30a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

Staff Meeting 9:00a.m.

Bible Group 7:00-8:30p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

IT Team 7:00p.m.

Memoirs 7:15p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

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



From the Staff at First Parish Church!

Elaine Bryant

Dawn MacKechnie

Rev. Catherine Cullen

Lenore O'Malley

Sunsue Fleming

Alex Pezner

Paul Frongillo

John Russo

Edwin Swanborn

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

Dawn MacKechnie, Youth Advisor

Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator

Alex Pevzner, Jr., Junior Choir Director

Jackie Smith-Miller, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Edwin Swanborn, Music Director

Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Rev. Robert R. Walsh, Minister Emeritus

Letter From Your President

First Parish Member and Friends –

It's been awhile since I last wrote a letter to the congregation. I received a gentle but welcome reminder that it might be a good thing to communicate what the Governing Board has been doing this year. Well, I had the best intentions to write something for the Bell Ringer on a regular basis but, alas, that didn't happen. I'll try to do better.

First, I cannot believe it is the end of March already. In our meeting last week, we discussed the need to remind committees that the deadline for submitting budgets for next year is nearly here (April 6th) as is the time for annual reports (April 30th) for the Program Meeting at the end of May. Where did the time go? Well, here's a catch up list of some of the things we've been busy doing while this year motors by:

Created Five Task Forces - Sanctuary Sound System; IT Infrastructure; Interim DRE Search; Cell Fund; and the Web Site – I'll let those groups provide updates on their activities in future – they have been busy

Approved Many Enrichment and Leadership Grants – Story Teller, Ukrainian Concert, New Name Tags, New Directories, Youth Trip to West VA, Stewardship Leader Conference, and a new microphone for the Sanctuary.

Approved Two Policies – Maintenance Finance Process Policy presented jointly by Finance and Building and Grounds Committees; and Gift Acceptance Policy presented by the Trustees.

Supported a Presence on eBay Giving Works – David Murphy is working to establish a presence on eBay where donations can be sold and a percentage of the proceeds would come to FPC – by the way, he could use some assistance, if anyone is interested.

Monitoring our Cell Tower Leases – As you may know, Metro PCS was bought by T-Mobile leaving four cell service providers with equipment in our buildings: AT&T, Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile. The sale reduced our annual cell income about \$22,000 per year. A group of interested and concerned members (Carl Howerton, Nancy Landgren, Tom Connor, Graham Mitchell, Peter Nappellio, Brad Smith and Jon Lehman) have been reviewing our current position and are gathering information on what options may exist. The overarching goal is to maintain and possibly grow the income derived from our leases for the long term. Any proposed changes for managing the current lease agreements would be addressed at an Annual Finance Meeting or in a special meeting.

Using the Bulletin Board – I was recently reminded that the Governing Board has some permanent real estate on the movable bulletin boards in the Harvey Assembly Hall. Well, we are finally going to use that space to recognize the members of our committee, its function and structure – particularly how it connects with all of the other committees in the church - and hopefully update it regularly with abbreviated meeting minutes. Look for these additions coming soon.

The Governing Board is here to serve you and we want to hear from you on all matters great and small – so please feel free to reach out to myself or other members of the Board at church or send an email to:

FPCGovBoard@verizon.net

Very truly yours,

Ted Lillys

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5th



6:20 a.m. Sunrise Service on Duxbury Beach. Suggested arrival time is 6:10 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Family Worship. Young people will attend church with their families. During the first part of the service, we will share in our traditional "**Hanging of the Eggs.**"

REMEMBER to bring with you on Easter Sunday **A BLOWN, DECORATED EGG** to hang on our First Parish Church Egg Trees. Over the years we have collected over 1,000 delightfully decorated eggs, which tell a wonderful story of the people of First Parish, some of whom are no longer with us. We hope **EVERYONE** will become a part of this annual tradition by adding an egg to our trees on Easter Sunday. **Remember, it needs to be a blown egg and you may want to add your name and the date on it.** **AFTER** this part of the service, our younger children (**1st grade and younger**) may go downstairs for activities.

Our "Egg Tree" Invitation

Would you like to help hang delightfully decorated eggs we have collected over the years? We would love some adult help with this project. Please contact Sunsue if you can help.

Consider Buying Cage-free Eggs for Our Egg Tree!

Buying eggs from hens that have been allowed to roam free and are fed only natural, non-pesticide treated grains goes in hand with the Ethical Eating Congregational Study Action Issue and our Green Sanctuary program. They are healthier for the planet, the hens that lay them and the people who eat them. They are also tastier! Cage-free and cage-free/organic eggs are readily available in most supermarkets today.

Church Street Sunday, March 29th

Young people in our K-1 class have been busy turning ordinary cardboard boxes into their very own homes. On Sunday, March 29th, they will bring their homes into the Harvey Assembly Hall for our traditional "Church Street". We will be ready for visitors during Coffee Hour from 11:30 – 12:00. We invite everyone to take a walk down our Church Street and introduce yourself to some of the youngest members of our church school. You may want to leave a note in a mailbox or two!

Church School Assistant

We are looking for someone to fill the position of Church School Assistant on Sunday mornings starting in September. This is a paid position and requires availability on Sundays from 9:30 – 12:30. For more information contact Sunsue Fleming.

Women's Beltane Ritual – Friday, May 1, :30 p.m.

The Women's Ritual group will be holding their May Eve Beltane Ritual on **Friday, May 1st at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Bring a sacred object to put on the altar and Goddess food to share. All women are invited!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTINUED

Sunday, May 5th, 2015 - RE Appreciation Sunday

This marks the beginning of church school registration for next year. We are already preparing for next year and ask that you register your children toddlers through grade 12 into next year's program even if they are currently enrolled. We will have a table set up during coffee hour, so please stop by the table and register your children for next year.



April Birthdays
Happy Birthday to All!

Katherine Gavin
Cal Howe
Finn Henry Nappellio

Jessica Sack
Rory Sullivan
Emilia Wagner

Reserve Flowers for Easter Sunday!



Tulips & Daffodils \$7

Lilies \$8

Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and leave your check in the envelope. Please make checks payable to "First Parish Church Duxbury" and indicate "Flowers" in the memo section.

If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Wyman





Ringing Out Justice!

News of social justice activities at First Parish Church



REGISTRATION FOR UU MASS ACTION'S 10TH ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAY IS NOW OPEN!

Tuesday April 14th, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM at Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St, Boston
Come hear a special message from **Bill McKibben**, world renowned climate activists and co-founder of 350.org. Our Keynote speaker is **Senator William Brownsberger, D-Belmont**. Senator Brownsberger is a Unitarian Universalist, Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, and strong leader and ally in legislation. He will address climate change, ending mass incarceration, immigrant rights, and economic justice (our 4 priority issues). Following the morning program, we will break out into groups to prepare for the legislative meetings at the State House. Each group will be facilitated by lead issue organizers. Participants are asked to choose their preferred issue focus when registering for the event.

Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/mzuo33z> *** Register by April 1st and the appointment with your legislator will be made for you.

Ticket Price \$25 - Covers breakfast, lunch, beverages & building use fee *** Reduced Fee \$10 tickets & scholarship passes are available

If you would like to go together, please contact Nancy Nowak.

UUA — UUSC — UU MASS ACTION NETWORK — UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH — OTHER UU GROUPS

ASK UUs to Commit2Respond !

On World Water Day, **Commit2Respond** rolled out its first major collective campaign—**Climate Justice Month**, calling us to join together to form a fully-fledged movement.

From World Water Day (3/22) to Earth Day (4/22), **Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience** are embarking on a spiritual journey for climate justice, organized by the new climate justice initiative **Commit2Respond**.

By signing up, individuals, families, groups, and congregations receive faith-filled resources, engage in powerful practices throughout the month, learn together, and more. By the end of the month UUs will make commitments to new long-term actions that will help us collectively shift to a low carbon future, advance human rights, and grow the climate justice movement. [Worship](#) resources are also available for World Water Day, Earth Day, and more.

Be inspired, get connected with other people of faith and conscience committed to climate justice, and commit to long-term actions that will help save our world. This is our movement. Together we have the power to make a difference. Sign up at www.commit2respond.org Follow on Facebook or Twitter.

UUSC Receives Highest Distinction from Charity Navigator

For the third consecutive year, UUSC earned the top rating—four out of four stars from the nation's largest independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations. This 'exceptional' rating is given to nonprofits that demonstrate exemplar fiscal responsibility and a commitment to accountability and transparency. With its Partners, UUSC uses our donations prudently and effectively to create systemic change and bring justice for oppressed people.

Continued on Page 10

Continued Calendar:**THURSDAY APRIL 9**

Book Club 9:00 a.m.
 Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.
 Communications 7:00p.m.
 Governing Board Agenda 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY APRIL 11

Duxbury Interfaith Council 9:00a.m.
 Courage of Conscience Awards Concert
 7:30-9:00p.m.

SUNDAY APRIL 12 - UNION SUNDAY

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.
 Bill Schultz Union Service 10:30a.m.
 HIP 6:00-7:30p.m.
 Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

MONDAY APRIL 13

Welcoming Congregation 7:00p.m.
 Finance Committee 7:00 p.m.
 Intern Committee 7:00-8:30p.m.
 Bible Group 7:00-8:30p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Memoirs 7:15p.m.
 Bell Choir 7:00-8:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Staff Meeting 12:00p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Bay Players Performance

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Bay Players Performance

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Membership Committee 9:00a.m.
 Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30a.m.
 Worship Service 10:30a.m.
 NO HIP

Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 20

Book Group 7:00-8:30p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Bay Players Performance

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Brockton Soup Kitchen 9:15a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 - WELCOMING CONGREGATION SUNDAY

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

MONDAY, APRIL 27

Building Use 10:30a.m.
 PFLAG 7:30p.m.
 Book Group 7:00-8:30p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

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

Continued

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 **APRIL**, please contact 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. She may be contacted at the office, on her cell, or via email.

Church Office Hours

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

BELL-RINGER DEADLINE

The Deadline for the May Bell-Ringer is Monday, April 24th

HAVE YOU TAKEN OUR WORSHIP/MUSIC SURVEY YET?? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

Continued Calendar:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Staff Meeting 12:00p.m.

DRE Meeting 7:00p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Book Club 9:00a.m.

Alliance 10:00-2:00p.m.

ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAYS - Family/Child Sunday (1st Sun. each mo.)

Joys & Concerns (2nd Sun. each mo.)

Announcement Sunday (1st & 3rd Sun. each mo.)

Silent Joys & Concerns (4th Sun. each mo.)

Music Committee (1st Sun. each mo.) 12 p.m.

Social Justice 9 a.m. (2nd Sun. each mo.)

Welcoming Congregation 9:30 a.m. (3rd Sun. each mo.)

Denominational Affairs 12:00 (3rd Sun.)

Buddhist Meditation 6-7:30p.m. (weekly)

MONDAYS - Build. Use 11 a.m. (4th Mon. each mo.)

Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2nd Mon. each mo.)

TUESDAYS - Hand Bells 7 p.m.

Memoirs 7:00p.m. (2nd Tues. each mo.)

WEDNESDAYS - RE Committee

7 p.m. (1st Wed. of each mo.)

Staff meeting 11:30 a.m. (weekly)

Buildings & Grounds 9-11 a.m. (1st Wed. each mo.)

"Kindred Spirits" 10-11:30 p.m. (2nd Wed. each mo.)

Membership 7:30 p.m. (3rd Wed. each mo.)

THURSDAYS - Book Group 9 a.m.

Sewing Group 10 a.m.

Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. (1st Thurs. each mo.)

Agenda Setting 7-8 p.m. (2nd Thurs. each mo.)

Governing Board 7 p.m. (3rd Thurs. each mo.)

Historical Committee 9:30a.m.

(3rd Thurs. each mo.)

FRIDAYS - Committee On Ministry

5 p.m. (1st Fri. each mo.)

SATURDAYS - Brockton Soup Kitchen

9:15 a.m. (4th Sat. each mo.)

The 2015 recipients of the Courage of Conscience Awards and Peace Awards Concert at First Parish Church in Duxbury

Saturday April 11, 2015

Reception @ 6:30pm

Concert @ 7:30pm

The 2015 Peace Abbey Courage of Conscience Awards have been announced and will be presented in Duxbury this year. Recipients will be receiving the awards in the areas of social activism, spirituality and the arts. The awards ceremony and concert will take place at the First Parish Church in Duxbury on Saturday evening, April 11, 2015 at 7:30 with a reception at 6:30 PM in the Assembly Hall.

The Peace Abbey, an interfaith organization committed to the study and practice of nonviolence and founded 1986 in Sherborn Massachusetts, honors individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves through humanitarian causes and peace and social justice activism.

The 2015 recipients of the Courage of Conscience Award are:

George Greenamyre of Marshfield, MA, retired activist professor who taught sculpture and design at the Massachusetts College of Art for more than 30 years and has created major installations of social protest art;

Mary Lambert, founder of Pilgrim Watch and founding member of Pilgrim Coalition of Duxbury, MA who has for decades educated the general public to the dangers of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, MA;

Matt Mitchell of Amherst MA, portrait artist who recently completed the 100 Faces of the War Experience which is on exhibit at the National Veterans Museum in Chicago;

Jane O'Hara of Little Compton, RI, animal-rights artist and activist and curator of Beasts of Burden Art Exhibition - Our Complex Relationship with Animals;

Vicki Poppe of Quincy, MA, former restaurateur of Blazing Salads and culinary philanthropist for her commitment to the study and practical application of the principles of unconditional love and service through A Course in Miracle.

Greenamyre, Lampert, Mitchell, O'Hara and Poppe will join the list of distinguished recipients of the Courage of Conscience Award that includes Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the 14th Dalai Lama, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Pete Seeger, Muhammad Ali, Joan Baez and Dr. Paul Farmer and Partners in Health. (A complete list can be found at www.peaceabbey.org.)

The 2015 Courage of Conscience Award ceremony will feature the music of internationally acclaimed **Magical Strings**. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors and children under 13 free and are available online at www.peaceabbey.org or at the door. A meet-and-greet the honorees reception with hors d'oeuvres, wine and local craft beer will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in Assembly Hall with short films on the work of the recipients. The Awards ceremony will follow in the historic sanctuary. The public is invited.

To Make Gentle the Life of the World

**HAVE YOU TAKEN OUR WORSHIP/MUSIC
SURVEY YET?? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM
YOU!!**

UNION SERVICE AND SPECIAL GUEST PREACHER ON APRIL 12



On April 12, First Parish will host a special union service including members and friends from our sister churches in Kingston and Plymouth. Joining our three ministers will be the Reverend Dr. William Schulz. Reverend Schulz is an eloquent and inspiring speaker and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to hear him.

Reverend Schulz leads the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) in advancing human rights and social justice in the US and around the world. Previously, he served for 12 years as executive director of Amnesty International USA, until spring of 2006. An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, Schulz is a former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Reverend Schulz has appeared frequently on radio and television, including Good Morning America, The Today Show, Hardball and Nightline and is the author or contributing editor of several books, including *In Our Own Best Interest: How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All*; *Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights*; *The Phenomenon of Torture*; and *The Future of Human Rights: US Policy for a New Era*.

The *New York Review of Books* said in June 2002, "William Schulz has done more than anyone in the American human rights movement to make human rights issues known in the United States."

Reverend Schulz's sermon is entitled *What Unitarian Universalists Value Least*. He says, "you will be amused when you learn what human virtue falls at the very bottom of Unitarian Universalists' ranking of values. But you may also be rightfully chagrined for, though we may not know it, this virtue also undergirds all of our work for social justice." In his sermon, Rev. Schulz will describe how UUSC is helping us rectify our shortsightedness.

At 3:00 the same day, Reverend Schulz will deliver the Helen Fogg lecture at the UU church in Norwell (24 River Street, Norwell 02061). His talk is entitled, "Do Human Rights Have a Future." All are welcome.

Everyone is invited to bring a plate of refreshments to share during coffee hour after the Sunday morning service on April 12.

Donna Savicki, Karen Sankey, Cindy Wilson, Nancy Nowak

MEMOIRS

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14th, 2015 – This informal group meets monthly to provide support for people interested in writing their memoirs. It is a great keepsake to pass on to your children. If you are interested, but have never participated, feel free to come and just listen.

Our topic will be “Worn Stories” i.e., stories about special items of clothes you’ve worn or saved over the years for sentimental reasons – or maybe you have a story about clothing you had to wear but didn’t like – or how about clothes shopping stories? As usual, I’m sure we’ll each head in a different direction with the topic, “Worn Stories.”

Hope to see you Tuesday, April 14 at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome!

Leader: Jackie Smith-Miller

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE – OR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – IS NOW ONGOING

Stewardship is the opportunity for all of us who are connected to First Parish Church to help support the community and programs, building and staff. Our theme this year is “The Ripple Effect” – how does our monetary pledge to the church affect the programs in and out of the church that mean so much to us? How does our monetary pledge affect the programs that teach our children and help them to become responsible, thoughtful teens and adults?

Most of you have been assigned a Stewardship visitor – someone who will or has already contacted you for a person to person visit or a phone visit. If by some chance you think you have not been assigned a visitor but would like to either pledge or just talk to someone from the church, please contact any member of the Stewardship Committee.

Cindy Ladd Fiorini
Bob Clark
Sharon Nabreski
Amy Hamilton
Mary Ann Kauffman

HELP ON THE BOOKSHELF

Welcoming Congregation Committee has a small library of books and videos that offer information and support to LGBT individuals and their families One title that has recently been passed from one person to another to enthusiastic reviews is [This Is a Book for Parents of Gay Kids: A Question & Answer Guide to Everyday Life](#) by Dannielle Ownes-Reid. Filled with real-life experiences, this is a go-to resource for parents who want to understand and support their gay children.

These resources are available for loan to members of our church community and to the newly formed PFLAG support group that meets in our church. Look for them in the Fletcher Room outside Rev. Catherine’s office.

MIGHT YOU BE INTERESTED IN JOINING A SMALL GROUP?

Small Groups, which are groups of 8-10 people meet in each other's homes, or at the church once or twice a month to consider spiritual issues and share thoughts through a process of deep listening. Deep listening happens when participants simply listen without forming opinions or feedback. When one participant finishes talking, another takes their turn in sharing their thoughts and experiences. This frees the listener up to really experience what the speaker is saying. Groups also are able to share what is happening in their lives, although, to quote Parker Palmer, there is "no fixing, no saving, no advising, no setting each other straight." Just listening and thereby providing a strong sense of sharing and community.

Groups also participate in volunteer projects together, inside or outside the church, strengthening their bond as a group and enabling the group to be part of the larger community. Does this sound like something that might interest you? If so, contact Cindy Ladd Fiorini. Or leave a note in the office – or find me at coffee hour. Other members of the Small Group Steering Committee are Mary Langner, David Murphy and Catherine Cullen and they can be approached about this as well!

SOCIAL JUSTICE - CONTINUED

UUSC Advocates for THE RIGHT TO WATER

Boston Mayor Announces New Water Rate Discount: Boston Mayor **Marty Walsh** announced a 30% discount on water rates for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities in response to research and advocacy by **UUSC and partner Massachusetts Global Action.**

Trouble on Tap: Congressional Water Briefing

On Thursday, February 26, UUSC joined with a group of concerned lawmakers to sponsor a congressional briefing about water affordability and accessibility in the US, where average water prices have risen 33% since 2010. Panelists, including **Patricia Jones**, UUSC's senior program leader for human right to water, reported on challenges to affordable water throughout the USA. As **Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-MI)**, one of the sponsoring legislators, said, "In the world's most prosperous nation, it's unthinkable that anyone should go without safe, affordable water." And yet, as panelists shared, that is exactly what is happening for hundreds of thousands of U.S. residents. Read more in Rep. [Conyers' Huffington Post](#) article and [UUSC's update, which includes a link to the hearing.](#)

Congratulations to UUSC on 75 years of advancing justice!

A special 75th Anniversary GALA Dinner will be held on April 30, 5:30-9:00 pm at The Westin Hotel, 70 Third Avenue, Waltham, MA. The evening will be hosted by Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz, UUSC President and CEO with a Keynote address by Nicholas Kristof, award-winning New York Times Columnist and Author. Special guests will include several of the children rescued by Waitstill and Martha Sharp in 1940 as well as a video greeting from Senator Elizabeth Warren.

The evening will also feature the premier of a specially commissioned choral piece by the renowned UU composer, *T.J. Anderson*, with lyrics written by former U.S. Poet Laureate *Robert Pinsky* and performed by the *First Parish in Concord choir.*

The year 2015 marks 75 years since 1939-40, when Waitstill and Martha Sharp traveled to Europe to begin rescuing victims of the Nazis. UUSC has built on that proud beginning and now, years later, they are still working on behalf of the most marginalized people in the world by advancing human rights through grassroots collaboration. Join in this special UUSC celebration! For more information, please contact **Kate Friedman** at Kfriedman@uusc.org, or **Cassandra Ryan** at cryan@uusc.org, or call 617-301-4344.